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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIV

JANUARY 1, 1991

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

CLOSER, MY LORD, TO THEE

Closer, yes closer, my Lord, to Thee.
This is my desire, this is my plea.
Open my eyes that I might see
And count the blessings Thou givest me.
Let me look at the tall standing trees
And see the shapes of the lovely leaves.
Let me walk alone the banks of a stream
And know life is real and not a dream.
Open my ears to the songs of the birds;
Such lovely melodies man never heard.
Then lift my eyes to the skies above
To think of the greatness of Thy love.
Let me utter praise to Thee each day
And follow Thy steps along life's way,
Searching the Scriptures and Thy Word obey,
Trusting, never doubting or going astray.
May I show compassion, consideration, too,
And love spring forth in all I say or do.
Then when life is ended on this earthly sod,
Be called home to glory to live with God.

- Sister Irene Stout
Rt. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

WARNINGS

New Years is a time of resolution making. As we come to the end of the old year and review our activities and accomplishments or failures, we decide that we will do some things differently than in the past. We may or may not succeed at carrying our resolutions into practice, but it is good for us to examine ourselves and be honest about our efforts. If we never acknowledged our mistakes or our failures, we would be doomed to continue making the same mistakes and in going the wrong direction. It is hard to admit we have failed or in any way come short of what our lives should be.

This is why warnings are important. We do not like warnings. We often ignore warnings that are given for our well being. But warnings are necessary so we will stop and take note of conditions within our lives. If we are forewarned we become forearmed so we can meet and conquer the problem in our lives. Without the warning we might go blithely on, until we had gone too far to retrieve our steps or we can only do so with a great deal of difficulty. We all recognize the need to warn children and young people of physical and Spiritual dangers, but are we as ready to admit that we need to be warned.

When we have been warned and we give heed to the warning, we can take steps to make the necessary corrections. We can make the resolutions that will cause us to think about channeling our efforts to correct our failings. If we are not warned, we are not as likely to think about a change in the course of our living.

God has seen the necessity of warning His people through His dealings with men. He has given some warnings directly, as He did to Adam and Eve. Most often His warnings have been given

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indirectly through various leaders. God would prefer to compliment and encourage, but He knows that words of warning are needed just as badly. Even with the warnings He has sent to His people over the centuries, many have been ignored. Men's rejection has brought a heavy penalty, sometimes conquest, slavery, death and even Spiritual separation from God. God means what He says. He will not spare when His warnings have been neglected and rejected.

Warnings cannot only dissuade someone from an unwise course, but also bring them to repentance for deeds already unwisely committed. The warning would cause them to get off the wrong course and to get on the right way. Nathan's warning to David caused David to repent of the horrible deeds that he had been guilty of.

The Book of Deuteronomy is an account of Moses, at the end of the wilderness journey, not only recounting the events between Egypt and the other side of the Jordan, it is also a warning to the Children of Israel concerning their conduct in the Promised Land. Joshua, at the end of his career, also called the leadership of Israel together to warn them of the dangers that they faced. He especially warned them not to mix with the people who were still left in the land. They were to keep themselves unpolluted from the religions and lifestyles of these people. The Apostle Paul warned the Ephesian Elders about the heresies and divisions that would arise within the Church. There were many other warnings delivered by God's leaders to His people, sometimes to individuals and, at other times, to groups. The warnings, although delivered at various times, consistently told God's people to remain close to Him, to serve Him, as He wished, and to be separated from the evil influences that Satan had set all around them in the carnal world.

It is better to pay heed to the warning before getting involved in a questionable activity than to have to repent after the deed is done. Samuel warned Saul to do right, but because of his headstrong attitude he rejected Samuel's warnings. Samuel told him, at last, that it would be better to obey than to have to offer the sacrifices of repentance after the deed was done.

It is easy to criticize these characters from the past as their sins are so openly laid out for us to see. But what of us, are we any more open to receiving warning than they were? We do not have Moses, Joshua, Samuel or Paul with us in person to warn us, but we have the advantage of the completed Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We have the warnings given us by our Brethren, as led by the Holy Spirit, as they recount the warnings contained in God's Word. We also have the advantage of history that tells of the follies of those of the past who did not heed the warnings they were given.

As we enter a new year may our resolutions be those that will please God. May we profit from His warnings, so we can look forward to a Future Home where there will be no more new years, only Eternity.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Simply 1991

The complexities of life, in the technological society in which we live and function, sometimes almost get us down. Time seems to travel so fast that we can't accomplish everything that we would like to do. Sometimes we would like to add another day to the week. I, personally, could call it "Lenday!" The problem of sorting out what we should do is always with us.

What causes our extra busy life? Many times it is our wants, not our needs. Our wants even dictate as to what we consider success or failure in life. We try to impress people so they will notice or admire us. We crave acceptance. As a result, we work to conform to everything that is highly esteemed. We try the most popular sport, we go to places that seem popular, we spend money for things we are not really interested in... just for acceptance. We are bombarded by the media advertising to build our interest in cars, houses, vacations and rest. How do we gain release from the problem of wrong interests and how can we be released from the fear, guilt and frustration that comes from trying to overachieve?

I would pray that in 1991, we might understand that the answer to the dilemma we have just described might be found in one word... **SIMPLICITY**. Does that sound too simple? I assure you that it isn't.

Simplicity is something we talk about as conservative Christians but we often do not know how to accomplish it. We might think that it relates only to our clothing.

Jesus put His finger on this quality when He described simplicity as an attitude. In Matthew 6, He talked about simplicity of attitude toward the disciplines of life. We are taught about a concept of living as we are told to give our alms quietly and in secret. This relates to us doing things quietly and privately, without looking for accolades from others, that will bring us simple satisfaction.

Living and doing should not provoke guilt or fear. If it does, we are obviously being taught by the Spirit of God to seek out the Lord's will and change our priorities.

Focus on the simple things of life. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If you are serious in your pursuit of simplicity and peace, God will bless you with finding it and it will become a pearl of great price.

Simplicity means that our number one focus in life is on the Kingdom. We need to routinely ask ourselves, "Is God pleased with what I am doing?" "Is God really ruling within my heart?" We need to spend more quiet time at home with family and in meditation on God's Word. We need to learn to say, "no" to activities which put us in a pressure cooker. Ultimately we really need to find out what God wants from us. As we focus on that and put other things aside, we will naturally accomplish a more simple lifestyle. Now, I am not talking about being lazy. Far from it. I am talking about accomplishment without the feeling of pressure or even guilt.

Focus on God. Center your life on Him. Practice prayer, meditation and even solitude at times. Allow GOD ONLY to control you... not anyone else. Also, avoid controlling someone else. Our lives always become more complex when we do this. Finally, "simply" do what God asks of you. When you feel the urging of the Spirit to do something, don't fight it but simply do it.

I forecast that 1991, as 1990, will see the winds of change trying to blow us in many directions. We are going to be able to survive and be at peace in all of this struggle only if we live a simple and balanced life.

Focus on God's power in 1991. Worship in a simple and honest way. Read God's Word to allow it to simply reach out to you and teach you the "way of truth and righteousness." Allow relationships to be pure and simple, undemanding and balanced. You will find much happiness in the coming year if you learn to simplify your lifestyle and allow the Lord to increase your faith. God's love will pour into your life in many ways as you explore the simple Christian life.

Brother Len Wertz

ANOTHER YEAR

"Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13-14.

"Another year is passing
And He has not returned.
Yet daily we're brought closer
To that for which we've yearned.
Our hearts with longing ponder
When will we see the face
Of Him whose daily mercies
Our thankful hearts can trace.

Yet looking through the lattice,
Unseen to mortal eyes,
Each thought and action knowing,
He every motive tries.

With arms outstretched in waiting
We view another year
And ask, "O Saviour, is it
The blessed crowning year?"

To be forever with Him
The One our hearts adore,
Delighting in His presence,
Desiring nothing more.

Yet while we wait, beloved,
Let us not fall behind,
Before the dawn is darkest
More testings yet you'll find.

But keep ahead the glory,
Ne'er let it fade from view.
The Lord of glory cometh —
What will He find in you?"

- Kathryn Guernsey Darrah

As we grow older, each year is a greater challenge to us. A challenge that the remaining years may bring more glory to God than the past years.

May the year ahead be a great year in the Lord's work and see many saved.

Sister Ethel Whitmer

WHY THE CHANGE?

Because of dissatisfaction with the way Christianity was headed in England, the Pilgrims, in a little ship, the Mayflower, risked their lives, crossed the briny deep, landed on the shores of America in 1620. Their purpose in coming to these rugged shores was inscribed on a little plaque, "FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH."

Ten years later, a much larger group, the Puritans, sailed for America. In the cabin of his ship, the ARBELLA, Governor John Winthrop wrote, "WE ARE A COMPANY PROFESSING OURSELVES FELLOW MEMBERS OF CHRIST... WE SHALL BE AS A CITY UPON A HILL."

Our New England colonies were settled as time moved on. In 1643 they formed the New England Confederation. They resolved

that "We all came with one and the same end, to advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Many other settlements were started with similar convictions. It is recorded that the state of Maryland began with the official acknowledgement that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Similarly, Pennsylvania was formed with a public commitment to the "ONE ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, THE UPHOLDER AND RULER OF THE WORLD." Harvard College, upon its founding, declared, "Let every student be plainly instructed: the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ, which is life eternal." (John 17:3)

In 1892 the Supreme Court declared that "The inhabitants here are a religious people — a Christian Nation." America was founded on a solid Biblical and Christian Foundation. For many centuries she maintained that status, but a great change has taken place. Over the years, as America grew in population and commerce, she slowly, but surely departed from the strong faith her founders were imbued with when America was first settled.

They possessed a strong belief in Jesus Christ. Today that faith once delivered unto the saints is so diluted with an array of ungodly beliefs such as atheism, agnosticism, skepticism, secularism, humanism, hedonism and statism that the mass of people are so confused that they do not know what to accept or believe. That is the work of Satan, deceiving the people, as he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. Wherever he can wedge in, he causes disbelief in God, in His Son and in His Word.

Recently, there have been many airplanes hijacked, even a ship at sea. Hijacking of the Word occurred much more gradually and much more subtly, which is why most Christians throughout this century didn't know it was happening. The results are now plain enough for all to see. According to the news media, the percentage of American Christians continues to decline.

As a result, more and more of our institutions, our schools and colleges, our print and broadcast media, our local and national governments are being taken over by humanists who dismiss the Biblical principles that once served as chart and compass, for not only our personal lives, but for the United States Ship of state.

Because of abandoning Biblical teachings, the soil of American culture has been poisoned and now we, in this present time, are reaping bitter fruit. The bitter harvest is large and ugly, sprouting from this soil of unbelief. Here listed is only a portion of this harvest.

From unbelief and its legions of false beliefs such as — "If it feels good, do it." "Freedom means you can do anything you want."

"Look out for number one — no one else will." and so forth, have come erosion of morality, liberty and order that one time, made America the world's most admired nation. The bitter fruits of unbelief include child pornography, homosexuality, incest and many kinds of perversion. In a home and school in Michigan that serves abused and abandoned children, ninety percent of the girls are suffering from incest. Broken homes, broken marriages and broken spirits are the results of disobeying God's Word along with the horrible diseases of Herpes, VD and AIDS.

The serious problems facing our Nation appear to be from UNBELIEF. If our America would apply the Biblical principles of life, education and government upon which America's original well being was built, I think God would do His part in restoring a Nation that is slowly, but surely going in the wrong direction.

Before we dare hope for such a change, our country must experience a great Spiritual Revival. To help make this happen, we need an increased commitment to Bible study, devotional life and prayer.

If we will do our part, God will do the rest.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

TOO LITTLE AND TOO MUCH

Proverbs 11:18, "The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward."

I Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

The hymn writer Frances R. Havergal pictures the Lord Jesus Christ asking some pertinent questions.

"I gave my life for thee,
My precious blood I shed,
That thou might'st ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead;
I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou giv'n for Me?

My Father's house of light,
My glory-circled throne,
I left for earthly night,
For wand'rings sad and lone;
I left, I left it all for thee,
Hast thou left aught for Me?

I suffered much for thee,
More than thy tongue can tell,
Of bitt'rest agony,
To rescue thee from hell;
I've borne, I've borne it all for thee,
What hast thou borne for Me?

And I have brought to thee,
Down from my home above,
Salvation full and free,
My pardon and My love;
I bring, I bring rich gifts to thee,
What hast thou brought to Me?"

As we enter this new year of 1991 what do we have to offer the Lord Jesus Christ who gave His all for us? There is a sense in which we have nothing to offer our Lord. As hymn writer Charlotte Elliot put it,

"Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind,
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!"

Yet as the writer of Proverbs tells us, "... to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward." We believe it is possible to do too little for our Lord. When earthly pleasures and cares take up more of our time than reading His Word and fellowshiping with Him we are probably doing too little in our spiritual walk. We will have passed by a season by the time you read this, Lord willing, in which many will have opened their hearts and pocketbooks to help those less fortunate than they. In Matthew 24 Jesus Christ instructs us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit those in prison. In verse 40 of this chapter we read, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." We believe the "King" is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. History tells us that while the first century Church was very poor, they never refused to share the little they had with someone in need. America has very few poor Christians. Yet we lack real charity in our lives to a great extent.

But sowing righteousness must go beyond supplying the needs of the physical body. We must offer the world "the bread of life," and "the living water." To merely do charitable work in the name of the Lord is to do too little.

There is one other area where the majority of those within the earthly church is doing too little for the Lord. (We do not feel it is our place to judge who can rightly call Jesus "Lord" and who

cannot.) In Romans 12:1-2 we read, "I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." All too many have changed this around and teach that it does not matter what you do with your body as long as your soul is eternally secure. There are many and various extremes within the earthly church. Some would deny a need of keeping our bodies pure in the area of sexual relationships. Even more would deny that we should avoid the dress and luxuries of the world that is used to adorn the body. They twist Scripture to make themselves feel comfortable while following the ways of the world. We are persuaded that the real problem is that they CALL Jesus Christ "Lord" but are not willing to allow Him to truly be Lord of their lives.

After saying all of this, is it possible to do too much for our Lord? Again, in one sense we cannot do too much for our Lord. But we believe we can do "too much" when we attempt to run ahead of the Lord. Some are filling the pulpits of our land who were never called by our Lord. Some may have gone to foreign lands to be missionaries who were never called to this task. If our "work for the Lord" is only a matter of self glorification we are doing "too much." We should also be financially responsible in our work for the Lord. We have serious questions about those who find themselves millions of dollars in debt with no known income and have to beg for money while doing "the work of the Lord." As we stated in a former article, only God can be exalted by us. But if we humble ourselves, God will exalt us in due time, according to our verse taken from I Peter.

In this new year let us desire to work for the Lord but to allow Him to receive all the glory. If you have never been washed in the blood of the Lamb as is symbolized in immersion baptism this will be a better year if you submit your body, soul and mind to God.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

A PEOPLE PREPARED FOR THE LORD

The Scriptures have so much to say about the Lord's return. One particular aspect of this has been on my heart lately. It has to do with preparation for the coming of the Lord. When He came the first time, He sent John the Baptist to go before Him, "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:17) "In those days

came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Matthew 3:1-3) Today also we are in a wilderness, and God needs voices through which he can cry out into the wilderness. But more than this, the true need of our day is for intercession. There must be intercession if there is to be a people watching and ready for the coming of the Lord.

"And it shall be said, cast ye up, cast ye up, PREPARE THE WAY, take up the stumbling block out of the way of my people." (Isaiah 57:14) God's people are hindered on the highway of holiness because the way is filled with obstacles. This is where the need for intercession comes in — intercession empowered by God, intercession that can open up the way for the people of God.

The obstacles before us are stumbling blocks and strongholds set up by spiritual forces of evil. We have desires to take hold of the riches of Christ, and we start to move in that direction. Then something happens — the stronghold kicks in and we get nowhere. When God-powered weapons of prayer are used, these demonic fortresses are destroyed, speculations and imaginations are cast down, and every lofty thing that raises itself against knowing God is levelled, and every thought becomes captive to the obedience of Christ.

When the work of the enemy is destroyed in this way, there is a mighty filling of the Holy Spirit, and we can grow incredibly. We can start to see what normal Christianity is really like, and God's Spirit is free to move among us in an amazing way.

Man and women who are mighty in prayer warfare are rare, and yet they are exactly what we need.

In view of this, what is our calling — what are we to do? I believe that it is simply this: to grow in our knowledge of the Lord, and to follow His leading, and that is all. As we grow in Him, He will teach us how to do battle. He will lead us into greater responsibilities as we become ready to handle them. Above everything, we must learn to fellowship with Him in an ever-increasing way. Some lambs have wandered off to do battle apart from the Shepherd's leading, only to be destroyed by a lion. We have a trustworthy commander, and He will lead us into our heavenly calling.

Brother Dean Shaffer

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1931

THE QUIET HOUR

Jessie Demuth

"For a moment in the morning,
Ere the cares of day begin,
Ere the heart's wide door is open
For the world to enter in,
Bend the knee, alone with Jesus,
In the silence of the morn,
And in heavenly sweet communion
Let your duty day be born.

"For a moment in the morning,
Take your Bible in your hand,
Catch a glimpse of sacred wisdom
From the peaceful promised land;
It will linger still before you
When you seek the busy mart,
And like flowers of hope will blossom
Into beauty in your heart.

"Take a moment in the morning,
Just a moment, if no more —
It is better than an hour
When the trying day is o'er;
'Tis the gentle dew from heaven,
'Tis the manna for the day,
If you fail to gather early,
It, alas! may melt away."

Oh, the quiet, holy joy of the silent hour, when the soul is alone with God! Have you learned to love it, dear reader? If not, you have yet to attain to one of the purest and sweetest pleasures possible to a Christian in this life. And we all need these "quiet moments." Our contact with the material things has a tendency to deaden the finer sensibilities of our nature, and to impoverish the spirit, unless the influence is counterbalanced by seasons of quiet meditation and prayer. "By all means, use sometimes to be alone."

God speaks to the soul in its moments of reverential silence. Seldom do we find a soul still enough to hear God speak. How many around us are thoughtlessly rushing on to eternity! They find

little enjoyment in the "quiet hour." They dislike to be alone with their own thoughts and do not know how to commune with their own hearts. And for the neglect of this blessed privilege, as well as a command, few can give any better excuse than the "lack of time." They have time to look after their temporal wants and to seek pleasure, but do not have time to "seek while on their way, their future realms to know." There is time to read magazines and other literature of the day, but no time to read the Bible and to get ready for eternity! What, then, is time (?) for as the poet says:

"Life is the time to serve the Lord,
The time to insure the great reward."

As someone has truly said, "We may lay it down as an elemental principle of religion, that no large growth in holiness was ever gained by one who did not take time to be often and long alone with God."

May we all resolve that henceforth, the "lone hour" shall have its place in our daily life. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Ps. 90:12)

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Final Judgment

J. H. Moore

For every man and woman two things are certain: first death and then the judgment. Or, as the writer of Hebrews puts it: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after that the judgment." (9:27) Whatever may be said of the judgment we pass on ourselves, or the forgiveness of sins, or the perfection, or even the happiness to which the righteous may attain in this life, there is nevertheless "appointed a day in the which he (God) will judge the world in righteousness." (Acts 17:31). In confirmation of this Paul further says: "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." (Rom. 2:16).

All the events of earth, — past, present and future, — lead up to this great day, — the judgment day. The rich and the poor, the great and the small, the master and the servant, the oppressor and the oppressed, friends and enemies, as well as the saint and the sinner, must face the same tribunal and hear the decision from which there is no appeal. In the New Testament we have some vivid pictures of the judgment scene, and while considering this as the culminating event of earth, we do not wish to occupy space in discussing the meaning of the word "day," as it applies to the time of the judgment, or the location of the final tribunal. We emphasize

the great and solemn fact that the judgment for every human being of earth is a matter of absolute certainty.

In Rev. 20:11-15 John describes the scene as it appeared to him: "I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it." He then continues: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

This judgment scene, however, was preceded by the general resurrection, for the sea gave up her dead, and even Hades, or the unseen world, gave up its dead, and all were judged together. We are then told that the "books were opened," — possibly the Old and New Testaments, — and then the "book of life," and the dead were judged out of the things written in these books. It is further stated, in verse fifteen, that "whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire." Notice another description.

The scene is graphically described by Jesus himself in Matt. 25:31-46. His description is introduced by a reference to his second coming, in which he says: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." He omits what John later on records concerning the binding of Satan, his one thousand years' reign upon the earth, and the destruction of Satan's kingdom. He describes the judgment scene by saying that "before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." And after presenting the reason for accepting the one class and rejecting the other, he adds: "And these (the disobedient) shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal." This ends the judgment scene, with the books closed and that, too, forever.

OBITUARIES

D. PAUL REED

Elder Doris Paul Reed was born April 6, 1912 in Floyd County, Virginia, the son of Humphrey and Emmazettia (Hurt) Reed.

He was a member of the Mt. Jackson Virginia Congregation.

He was married in March 1934 to Esther Dulaney. To this union were born two daughters, Jean Altizer and Bessie Altizer both of Riner, Virginia and three sons, Quinter Reed of New Paris, Indiana, Benjamin Reed (who preceded him in death) and Lowell Reed of Christianburg, Virginia. Survivors also include twelve grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, a sister Maggie Craum of Temple Hills, Maryland and a brother, Elder Hayes Reed of Modesto, California.

He passed from this life October 23, 1990 at Montgomery Regional Hospital, Blacksburg, Virginia, at the age of 78 years, 6 months and 17 days.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Eugene Kauffman at Gardner Funeral Home, Floyd, Virginia. Burial in nearby Jacksonville Cemetery.

BERTIE REED

Sis. Maude Alberta "Bertie" Altizer Reed was born May 28, 1903 the daughter of Henry and Maude Mannon. She departed this life October 28, 1990 at the age of 87 years, 5 months, at her home in Radford, Virginia.

She was married December 24, 1924 to Charles D. Altizer, who preceded her in death February 22, 1942. To this union were born two children Beatrice Altizer Blue of Tucson, Arizona and Charles E. "Eddie" Altizer of the home.

She again married September 23, 1959 to Elder Roscoe Reed of the Mt. Jackson Congregation, Virginia. He preceded her in death February 20, 1979. She leaves the above children, three grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great great grandchild, two brothers Roy and Ernest Mannon of Radford, Virginia, two stepdaughters, Alice Leah of Selma, Virginia and Inez Cybry of Roanoke, Virginia, three stepsons, Harold Reed of Roanoke, Virginia, Carl Reed of Grandview, Missouri and Ord Reed, Christianburg, Virginia, also several step grandchildren, step great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

The funeral was conducted by Elder Eugene Kauffman and Pastor James Cochran at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Radford, Virginia. Burial in nearby Westview Cemetery.

NEWS ITEM

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

The Winterhaven Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to have a Lovefeast Service, January 19, 1991. There will be services beginning Saturday A.M. with the Lovefeast in the evening. You are welcome to attend these services.

Sister Susan Manuel, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIV

JANUARY 15, 1991

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

STEP BY STEP

"He does not lead me year by year
No even day by day,
But step by step my path unfolds:
My Lord directs my way.
Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
I only know this minute;
But He will say, "This is the way,
By faith now walk ye in it."
And I am glad that it is so,
Today's enough to bear;
And when tomorrow comes, His grace
Shall far exceed its care.
What need to worry then, or fret?
The God who gave His son
Holds all my moments in His hand
And gives them one by one."

- Barbara C. Ryberg
Selected by Sister Ethel Whitmer

COMPARTMENTS

"In my Father's House are many mansions". These words of Jesus would give us some idea of how grand Heaven is. While we speak of rooms in our houses, Jesus could speak of mansions in Heaven. To realize in a small way the grandeur of Heaven is to encourage us to desire it. Might we look forward to our "Mansion Over the Hilltop", not just a room in another apartment complex.

Most of us do not live in mansions on this earth, we live instead in various types of housing. The type of housing will be determined by geography, finances and other factors.

Our houses usually are divided into various rooms, each with a particular function. Bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, dining rooms, living rooms and other rooms all serve their particular task. In today's modern architecture these rooms are more often combined than they were in the past. Kitchens and dining rooms are often just one room. Living rooms have become dens or family rooms or play rooms. Seldom do we see the old fashioned parlor, that is closed off except when special company is entertained. Whatever the arrangement of the rooms in your house, you probably have favorite places where you like to be at certain times of the day.

Unlike our houses, we cannot divide our lives into such exclusive compartments as we do our houses. There are times when we may try to separate the various elements of our lives from the others but it cannot be done successfully. No matter how hard we try we cannot separate our business life, our social life, our family life, our romantic life, our recreational life, our educational life from our Spiritual life. Either these various areas of our lives will reveal that our Spiritual lives are nearly nonexistent or else the Spirit will

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permeate everything that we do. Our works do show whether we have faith or not. Faith can be seen in no other way than through the activities of the faithful.

In our business dealings, we are either honest or dishonest. We either take note of how we should handle our finances from the Spirit or from the world around us. The whole tenor of our business dealings will reflect our Spiritual underpinnings or else we will be marked as hypocrites.

Our social lives will mirror our Spiritual lives, for we will choose our companions and our social activities based upon our Spiritual condition. We will not engage in some social activities if we are serious about our lives bearing testimony of our relationship with the Lord. That relationship will be more important to us than any other, so we can become social outcasts without great loss if we have the right relationship with God.

Our family life will be influenced by our Spiritual life. If we have a Christian life we will be teaching our families, both, formally and informally, about God, His Word and the way of life that is pleasing to Him. We will make Church activities of the highest priority. We will engage in family-centered activities that are Biblically sound.

When courting, the Spirit will be our guide in the activities and attitudes engaged in. Our relationships will be guided by the righteous ideals of the Word of God. Husbands and wives also should be guided by the attitudes that should characterize the Christian couple.

Our fun times should be influenced by the Spirit of God. We need the less serious times to refresh and relax us in the midst of the stress of daily life. Where we go and what we do for recreation should be directed by the Spirit. We cannot spend money or time on the many recreational activities available; especially if they conflict with times of Spiritual activities.

Education is an important element in our lives, but it too must be in line with the Spirit's guidance. The schools we attend, the subjects we study and the vocations we choose to prepare for all should be chosen to be consistent with our Spiritual outlook. We must not allow ourselves to be so educated that we lose our contact with God or cause us to look down upon His simple teachings. Education should be a help not a hindrance to our Spiritual lives.

We cannot divide our lives into compartments that are not related to each other. These various areas of our lives all fit together to make a total life. That total life should be directed by the Holy Spirit.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Encouragement

Are you an encourager or a discourager of other believers? The "art" of encouragement and the Biblical mandate to encourage will be covered here that we might be more effective in our work to construct a strong Body of believers and be unified in our working together.

We are admonished in the Word to "follow after the things which make for peace." In addition, we are called to "bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." (Rom. 15:1) We need to constantly be working in the construction process of other Christians, confirming their faith in the Lord and in the Church and helping them to improve in their service. This is a calling of all believers and the responsibility probably does not get the attention that it should. We often do just the opposite... tear each other down to try to put ourselves a notch above them. This is dead wrong! As we climb the spiritual ladder, it is our responsibility to push the other Christians up the ladder of maturity ahead of ourselves. In fact, as we encourage the other person we will rise right along with him. Can you imagine what spiritual giants we would be in the Dunkard Brethren Church if we would have that attitude?

We need to affirm the worth of the other Christians and also show that we appreciate their work in the church. That work might be in the ministry or as a teacher or it might just as well be functioning in the gift of the Spirit which was given to us by the Lord when we accepted Him as our personal Saviour. Because of what the person is doing, we must give him our respect, we must affirm him and express our appreciation for what he is doing. We must get behind our fellow Christians and encourage them with honest caring and understanding. I am a firm believer that many potential leaders are discouraged from achieving their potential in the church body as a result of a lack of encouragement and the negative input coming into their lives.

Life is complicated enough today in the work-a-day world that there must be a haven as we come together with fellow believers. It should be a time of building up and not knocking people down. Remember this... **ANYTHING THAT DOES NOT BUILD UP ANOTHER PERSON IS NOT IN YOUR BEST INTEREST BECAUSE THEY ARE A PART OF THE BODY OF WHICH YOU ARE ALSO A MEMBER.**

Encouragement might well be helping others to understand certain aspects of life that might be detrimental to their spiritual health. It means you will care enough to help others with their

music selections, the books they read and possibly even how they spend their money. If you are sincere in this guidance and are informed about that which you are instructing, you will not make an enemy but you will be appreciated for your loving and constructive concern. You will be seen as a person who is upbuilding rather than tearing down.

How about your conversations? Do they tear others down or build them up? The Bible is adamant that we have no authority to talk negatively about others in such a way as to destroy them or their reputation. If your conversation about an individual is not edifying then it should be put out of your mind and you should ask God to give you victory over the incorrect thoughts that you are experiencing.

We need to pray about being a builder of lives. We need to tell God of our desire to reach out to others in a productive and living way and ask Him to guide us and use us in the work. Ask God to build you through yielding yourself to the Lordship of His Son. Ask Him to build you up through Scriptural knowledge. Become super-active in your congregation and you will be less prone to be destructive in your evaluation of the other Brothers and Sisters. Your compassion will grow proportionately to your activity shared with others.

Be a REAL friend. Real friends who will share hurts and be available in times of need are very rare today. Look around you. There are those who especially need to be befriended. You can be very productive in the service of the Lord in that way and you will find contentment and satisfaction in your own soul that is life changing.

Finally, ask yourself this question; What would the church be like if every member were like me? Would it be improved and would others be edified and comforted or would it be torn down and ready to come apart at the seams? Our church would be exciting above words if we would each take up the challenge to be an encourager. Will you accept the challenge?

Brother Len Wertz

SHARING THE WORD

Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it."

Ephesians 5:6, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Philippians 2:14-16, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Recently we received a telephone call asking for money to aid the sending of Bibles to Russia. We also received two personal letters, one from India and one from Nigeria, informing us of the need of Bibles. While we most certainly touched on this issue in previous articles, we felt led of the Holy Spirit to share some thoughts on sharing the Word of God with others.

God promises us in His Word that when His Word goes forth it will not return unto Him void. Rather it will accomplish that which He pleases and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto He sent it. There is much good that is accomplished by sharing the Word of God, the Holy Bible, with others. Many have come to the knowledge of true salvation merely by reading the Holy Word. Others have left error and came into the light of truth by studying the divine Word.

As pure and holy as the Word of God is, some have used it to deceive in place of edifying. There are many vain words being used in connection with the Word of God. We believe one of the areas where great caution must be used is in the area of various translations and paraphrases. We would humbly suggest that Dunkard Brethren congregations pray about finding ways to send the Word of God into various countries as well as sharing Bibles here at home. We would also suggest that any Bibles shared should be the King James Version. But using the King James Version is not a sure guarantee of purity in doctrine. Many false teachings are promoted by those who use only the King James Version. One of the leading King James Only preachers is married for the third time with all three "wives" still living. Some of the cults still use the King James Version also.

The Holy Word of God can cure us of murmurings and disputings if we accept what it has to say without question. But in place of this the Word of God has caused many denominations to be found along with various independent works. While we believe there can only be one truth, and we are personally persuaded that this is found within our Brethren faith, we have a healthy respect for those of other Christian faiths who uphold the pure Word of God. We leave their eternal destiny in the hand of God who makes no mistakes.

The Word of God can make us blameless and harmless. We are made blameless by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and by

walking in the Word. We will never be perfect in this life, but we can be blameless by the vicarious perfection of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we are blameless then we will also desire to be harmless. That is, we will follow the teachings of the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ, and avoid all violence. What does this say about the many who teach we must go to war to protect our country? This may soon be a vital issue once again, and it is a real possibility that our nation may be involved in a war by the time you read this. When we share the Word we have to share all the truths therein, including the truth of biblical nonresistance.

The Word of God declares us to be the Sons of God. It is the truth we need to experience a real conversion experience. Then it tells us how to live to remain in this relationship. When we are truly born again and walking in the light as the Lord Jesus is in the light, we are assured that the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, daily cleanseth us from all sin. Then we are without rebuke.

The Word of God allows us to be lights in the world in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. While our nation gives lip service to the Word of God, and misuses it in such ways as swearing into office, it cannot be denied that we are a crooked and perverse nation. And all too many churches have gone the way of the nation in place of standing boldly on the Word of God!

While early church writings and writers can be useful in establishing the truths of Scripture, they cannot be a substitute. They must also be used with caution.

May we pray about the need of sharing the Word with others. May we share the truth in love. But even above this, may the Word of God make a difference in OUR lives.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

A PIECE OF HISTORY

Jude 1-3, "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

THE CONTENDING FOR THAT FAITH HAS NEVER BEEN RECALLED. GOD AND CHRIST EXPECTS US TO CONTINUE CONTENDING UNTIL CHRIST COMES.

My purpose in writing this article is to "bring to our remembrance" a part of the past history of the Church. The doctrine and principles of our mother church were sound, scriptural and soul filling. The lives of those that lived it, had a great influence in the church and in the community. They were definitely a separate people.

The Brethren Movement started at Swartzneau, Germany in 1708. Immigrants brought the plain movement from Germany to the State of Pennsylvania. That was the start of the Brethren movement in America. From the start it spread over a large area. Wherever these folks migrated, they banded together and there a church sprung up. WHY? Because they carried the Fire of the Spirit with them. The Church body grew by leaps and bounds.

In the early nineteen hundreds, there started a movement over the Brotherhood which led to a serious drift from their former avowed principles. Worldliness crept in. The plain principles upon which the Church was founded, were, in many places, being abandoned, to such an extent that many of the older Brethren and Sisters could no longer carry out their baptismal vows. Many simply stayed at home, no longer having any part in the services. This condition was not confined to any one particular locality. It was nationwide, particularly west of the Ohio River.

When Conference was at Calgary, Canada, a definite decision was made that to be able to carry out the principles and teachings of Jesus and the New Testament, there had to be a separation. I was at that Conference. Loyal and devout Brethren spoke in favor of returning to the old paths, to the original doctrine of the Church. The loyal Brethren were outnumbered. Their voices and votes were not heard or wanted. A number of the older Elders made very forceful talks on the need for the Church to get back to her former doctrine. In their remarks from the platform, young ministers, just out of college, berated the long time, faithful Elders and Ministers who preached the Word for many years, without pay and wanting none. They were strongly contending for a paid ministry.

On returning home by train, my father told me there was much unrest over the Brotherhood. He said there was a large element at that Conference who definitely stated that was the last of those Conferences they would attend.

I, not aware at the time, but later my father told me that quite a number of conservative Brethren there, were strongly urging the start of a new organization.

Following the Calgary Conference, Elder B. E. Kesler, who was a conservative Elder was besieged by many to start a new movement. His correspondence regarding that subject was heavy, and came

from many localities. He, being highly in favor of, and a strong advocate for such a movement, and not able to personally answer all his correspondents, but, having a desire to answer everyone, in October 1922 started and issued the Bible Monitor.

His purpose was to bring together those of the same thinking. Also, it was a means of letting others, who were dissatisfied, know that there was a movement on foot, to organize and return to the original FOUNDATION. The Bible Monitor served its purpose intended from day one. Many over the entire Brotherhood were again thankful to anticipate a Church in which they could carry out the vows and promises made in the baptismal waters. In Brother Kesler's words, he was "swamped" with inquires and correspondence.

He deemed it appropriate to appoint a meeting place that those who were interested might attend and express their point of view. September 12, 1923 there was a meeting called at Denton, Maryland. It was well attended. A definite decision was made for a reform movement.

A similar meeting was called at Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The attendance and interest increasingly grew. Many present, wanted to sign on as charter members, if the new organization developed. A well attended meeting was held near Wauseon, Ohio June 4-5, 1925.

Finally, an organizational meeting was called to meet at Plevna, Indiana. At that meeting, with a full house, the launch was made. The Polity of the Church was drafted and unanimously approved. This was the actual true beginning of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

Over the Brotherhood, at many locations, and through the pages of the Bible Monitor hundreds of letters from many discouraged congregations arrived at Elder Kesler's desk.

To impress on the reader's minds, the pressure the Editor was under, I will quote word for word, but not revealing the source of the letters, several samples he received.

"We decided to write to you our situation here in -----, Ohio. We are certainly glad for the Monitor and the stand that has been taken. Our leaders are neglecting the discipline and obedience to God's commands.

We certainly cannot do the things the world does and be God's children. We have joined the Dunkard Brethren Church because it is following the Bible.

Wishing you and your work Godspeed. We are a little band for a closer walk with God." The above was signed by members of two congregations.

Another letter dated August 29, 1927 from Virginia stated, "Brethren came into our midst and we met in a vacant building. Fifteen members signed up as the beginning of our Dunkard Brethren Congregation. At that meeting church Officers were elected.

Signed -----

November 30, 1926 a congregation was organized in Indiana. They reported later that in four months their number doubled.

About the same time Bro. Kesler received a letter from a large group in Pennsylvania as follows:

"Seeing the disregard of Ordinances, the lack of conformity to God's Word, and seeing there is no regards or desire of reform in the mother Church, we hereby declare our purpose to stand on our former avowed principles, and be it hereby known that we take our stand as Dunkard Brethren."

Over a period of a few years, new congregations were organized in the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, California, Iowa, Virginia, Oregon, West Virginia, Missouri, Colorado, Washington, Kansas, Maryland, to name some of them.

This meant a sacrifice for a worthy reason. Needless to say, families were divided. A place of worship had to be provided. Some congregations, in starting up, met in homes, school houses, empty store buildings and some obtained Church buildings, no longer used, either by purchase or rental.

It was recorded that at one organizational meeting, there were outsiders who attended the meeting, perhaps out of curiosity. But seeing the eagerness of those who were organizing, asked the moderator if he would call a recess to the meeting, which he did. Six were taken to the baptismal stream and thus became members of the new organization and then could participate in the meeting.

In time, District Meetings and annual General Conferences were held. Adjoining congregations supported each other during revival meetings, Lovefeasts, Harvest Meetings.

As the movement grew, various Boards, such as Board of Trustees, General Mission Board, Board of Publication, Bible Study Board, Relief Board and the Torreon Navajo Mission Board was set up to provide the needed operations of the Church.

Satan is out seeking whom he may devour. It is his aim to prevent everyone from saving their soul. He works hard in opposing the work of Christ, who came to seek and save the lost.

In closing, I refer to I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the

work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Note — I have kept many records of the Dunkard Brethren Church. I felt pressed, that while I'm still able, I should compile this information and have it published for the benefit of the present membership, and especially for the younger members. It is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, Ohio 44718

A GRATEFUL HEART

When the day is dark and the sun does not shine life is very blue. It seems our life is just an adventure that leads to who knows where? We all know love was made for sharing and hearts are made to care, through these two we are able to find beauty every where. The love we have for our dear Brethren and Sisters in our Beloved Church, we should show now. Let us not wait till they pass to the Great Beyond before we show how much we care.

God gave each of us two eyes so we could see what can be done to cheer others up. He also gave us ears so we can hear the cries of those in need. He gave us lips so we could speak words of comfort and peace, to those that need it today. Tomorrow, it might be too late.

We also were given a clear mind so we could hear the words of the Master, who asks each of us to help in time of need. We should respond to those whose hearts are lonely and their last years need comfort and cheer. Singing, the reading of God's Word and praying, or just dropping by a few cheery words are some of the things we can do for them.

If we are following in Christ's footsteps we will never be too busy to follow Him all the way. Let us each try to walk daily by the Saviour's side, seeking the light as it shines from Heaven above, through sunshine and rain. Let us always follow the light that shines when darkness comes. Let us follow in His footsteps doing His will at all times so we can say as the Apostle Paul said, "I have fought a good fight" and I am sure there will be a wonderful place for each of us in Heaven above.

Sister E. M. Alltus

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1931

THE SIN OF GOSSIP

Grace Moss

When we talk about our friends what do we say? Do we pick out all the bad points, or do we forget the bad and tell how much good there is in very person?

"There's so much good in the worst of us,
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it ill behooves any of us
To speak ill of the rest of us."

I once met an Elder who had something good to say about every one of his members. He was always talking about the good points in them and never mentioning their faults. Oh, if more people were like him.

I like the saying, "If you can't say anything good about anyone, don't say anything at all." If we can't say anything at all, always think good about someone until they prove different. And how much better this whole world would be.

Gossip has ruined many a person's reputation; gossip keeps adding a little more to it each time a thing is told until in the end it becomes a lie. People, are we guilty of telling lies? It is unsafe to tell the gossip we hear, for we don't know how many hands it has gone through, or how many times it has been changed or added to, and if we tell some of the untruths we hear we are ruining their reputation. I am afraid lots of us are committing a sin of ruining another person's reputation.

What good can an Elder do, with some of his members gossiping about him, ruining his reputation? Picking out his faults? People, are we guilty? Let's examine ourselves. Where there is union there is strength. Let's forget our brother's or sister's faults and work together; spend more time in reading and talking the Bible and less time about other people.

We all have our faults, but telling someone else about it isn't going to help anyone, but if we tell the person about his or her own fault some good may be done. Read Matt. 18:15-17.

Another saying I like is, "If you can't say it to my face don't say it at all." In other words, don't say anything to my back you can't say to my face. How fine if we would all do it.

No one can live your life for you. No one can make your choice for you. No one can have faith in God for you. No one can believe in Christ for you. No one can do your duty for you. No one can

meet your responsibility for you. You must live your own life, and can have no substitute. But how much more encouraging to have people or friends helping us along by holding up our reputation than having them trying to tear it down by what they have to say about us.

“Five things observe with care,
Of whom you speak,
To whom you speak,
And how, and when, and where.”

I once read a story about a father and mother who had tried to get their son into their church, but failed. So they called on a minister to help them. So one day the minister went to the home of the son and, after visiting a few minutes, he asked him why he had not joined his parents' church. His reply was, “From what I have heard mother and father talk about those church members, I wouldn't want to be mixed up with them.”

Fathers and mothers, be careful what you say about fellow church members.

Never tell a thing unless it passes the three gates:

First, the gate of truth;
Second, the gate of kindness;
Third, the gate of necessity.

If it passes these three gates then it may be told.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Destiny of the Wicked

J. H. Moore

No one can read the Bible without being reminded, at almost every turn, of the displeasure of the Lord with those who deliberately refuse to walk in his ways. What is said of the punishment meted out to the ungodly antediluvians, and the wicked inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as to others, shows how he deals with sin. While he is a loving Father, and is disposed to deal kindly with the erring, yet he is just, and cannot, and will not tolerate persistent and willful disobedience.

For man he has done all, and even more, than reason would demand. He even gave his only Son to suffer and die, that men and women might be redeemed from their sins, and placed in a position to accept eternal life. But when they deliberately reject the easy terms of salvation, refuse to acknowledge the God who made them, trample under foot the mercies of heaven, and dishonor the Son

who died for them, what else could such people expect, aside from banishment from the presence of the Lord?

It is useless to attempt to reason away the idea of a future place of punishment for the wicked. The wisest of men would never think of running a government without jails and penitentiaries. Something, they say, must be done with the law-breakers. Should we expect God to run a world like this without a place of confinement for the wicked? They cannot be reformed; they cannot be made fit subjects for heaven, and what is to be done with them?

It is sad to think of men and women being sent away into everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46), but this is what the Master says will happen to the disobedient. Not only so, but he says the time is coming, in the winding up of the affairs of the human race, when the Judge of all the earth will say: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). We read that the rich man (Luke 16) lifted up his eyes in hades, being in torment. Then we have the Psalmist (9:17) saying: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." And to this we may yet add the words of the Master, when contrasting the destiny of the righteous with that of the wicked: "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 8:12).

All of this is fearful to contemplate, but let it be remembered that the disobedient have had warning, year after year, and have been given ample time to repent, and to make their "calling and election sure." When everything possible has been done to save the ungodly, and they will simply not be saved, they have no one to blame but themselves. Hell has been made for the wicked, and if people persist in traveling on the broad way "that leadeth to destruction," what else can be expected but that they, like Dives, will some sad day open their eyes in hades, being in torment? It is but the logical ending of a life disobedience, however unfortunate the fate, and it is useless to minimize the terrible consequences.

OBITUARIES

GALEN R. KEENY

Bro. Galen R. Keeny, son of Lloyd M. and Ida E. (Weaver) Keeny was born at York, Pennsylvania on June 22, 1966. He departed this life on December 6, 1990, at the age of 24 years, 5 months and 14 days at York Hospital as the result of an automobile accident.

He was a member of Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church.

Besides the parents, he is survived by two brothers, Roger L. of Fawn Grove, Pennsylvania and Fred E. of Glen Rock, Pennsylvania; one sister, Carolyn J. Keeny of Paraguay, South America and eight nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one sister, Lois M. Keeny.

Funeral services were held December 10, 1990 at Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder Jacob Ness, Bro. Ronald Marks and Bro. Ray Stuber officiating. Burial was in New Freedom, Pennsylvania Cemetery.

ANDREW NOECKER

Brother Andrew John Noecker, son of Bro. and Sis. Paul Noecker, Sr., born August 1, 1962 in Pottsville, Pennsylvania passed away July 18, 1990 at the age of 27 years, 11 months and 18 days, as a result of freon inhalation.

He accepted Christ at the age of thirteen years and was baptized, and became a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Bethel, Pennsylvania.

He was united in marriage to Carla Boltz on August 13, 1983 and into this family two sons, Andrew John, Jr. and Dustin James were born.

He was employed at Losch Boiler Systems as a professional air conditioning and refrigeration technician for two and a half years. He is survived by his wife, Carla; two sons, Andrew and Dustin, Landingville, Pennsylvania; his parents, Bro. and Sis. Paul Noecker, Sr., Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania; three brothers, Paul II, Erech and Nathan; four sisters, Neide Aungst, Rachel Schmit, Dorcas Sprengle and Reta; Grandparents, co-workers and many friends.

On July 23, 1990 funeral services were conducted by Elder Paul Hartz, Bro. Jason Reed and Bro. David Aungst in the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Bethel, Pennsylvania. Elder James Kegerreis conducted graveside services. Place of interment is Kimmel's Church of God Cemetery, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania.

Andrew was a loving and caring husband, son, father, brother, friend, and help to his community. Friends, neighbors, co-workers and employers have enumerated many ways in which Andrew had touched their lives through his patience, gentleness, quiet cheerfulness, loving kindness and willingness to lend a hand.

"The sun and rain will ripen fast
Each seed that thou hast sown
And every act and word at last
By its own fruit be known."

- J. Very

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1991

February 3 - Faith and Works - James 2:10-16.

1. What good is faith without works?
2. What good is works without living faith?

February 10 - Self Control - James 3:1-12.

1. What is our tongue a reflection of?
2. What kind of fountain is our speech?

February 17 - True Wisdom - James 3:13-18.

1. Contrast the characteristics of true and earthly wisdom.
2. How are you seeking true wisdom?

February 24 - Humility - James 4:1-10.

1. What is the root cause of most conflicts? Prov. 13:10.
2. Who does God give grace to?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1991

February 3 - Duty - Luke 9:18-26, Romans 12:1-21.

1. Have you listed your Christian duties? Ecc. 12:13.
2. Are you "on duty" for the Lord?

February 10 - Our Hearts - Pro. 4:20-27, Matt. 15:18-20, Luke 6:43-49, Romans 10:1-11.

1. Define what is meant by "our heart."
2. How can we guard against spiritual heart trouble?

February 17 - The Open Door - John 10:7-10, John 14:1-6, Rom. 4:1-11, Heb. 10:16-25.

1. Who is "the Door" to salvation?
2. Have you entered that door?

February 24 - Hindrances - Gal. 3:1-8, Gal. 5:7-9, Heb. 12:1-6.

1. Who places hindrances in our path?
2. How can we turn these stumbling blocks into stepping stones?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIV

FEBRUARY 1, 1991

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE GOOD OLD-FASHIONED WAY

I am on the Gospel highway, Pressing forward to the goal,
Where for me a rest remaineth In the homeland of the soul;
Ev'ry hour I'm moving onward, Not a moment to delay;
I am going home to glory In the good old-fashioned way.

From the snares of sinful pleasure, Here my feet are always free;
Tho' the way may be called narrow, It is wide enough for me;
It was wide enough for Daniel, And for David in his day;
I am glad that I can follow In the good old-fashioned way.

Many friends have gone before me, They have laid their armor down,
With the pilgrims and the martyrs Have obtained a robe and crown;
On this road they fought their battles, Shouting vict'ry day by day;
I shall over-come and join them In the good old-fashioned way.

Just a few more steps to follow, Just a few more days to roam;
But the way grows more delightful As I'm drawing nearer home;
When the storms of life are over, And the clouds have rolled away,
I shall find the gates of heaven, In the good old-fashioned way.

- J. Oatman, Jr.

THE HONOR

One of the best ways to motivate people is to recognize them. People will do almost anything to be recognized. They will extend themselves and far exceed what they have done in the past, hoping they will receive some recognition for what they have done. Everyone wishes a little bit of fame in his own circle of acquaintances. Recognition motivates people even more than money. People love to hear their names spoken in public by others. All want to receive some honor, whether it is associated with business, education, sports or another pursuit.

When some think of honor they think primarily of titles and riches, which are highly esteemed by the world. But often the greatest honors are those which the world cares little about. There are honors within the family, which only mean something to the members of the family. There are honors that only have great meaning to the person who receives them. An honor to one person will not be viewed as an honor by another.

"Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:" James 1:9. To be of low degree would not normally be thought of as an honor, but James tells us that it is far better to be a Brother without great honor in the Church, than to be rich and famous. The riches of the wealthy may suddenly take flight but that humble Brother has an eternal possession. Although life may not hold great accomplishments or possessions for him, he is possessed of something far better than what the world ever can give to any man.

The world does not like to think of humility, but is taught by the enemy of their souls that they should exalt themselves and do what will gain the notice of the world. Satan exalts himself against God,

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so he teaches his followers to exalt themselves as well. They are taught to not submit themselves to the requirements that are necessary for the well being of society. Submissiveness is a very uncommon quality in the world today. Humility is seldom to be found. Certainly the world is not desirous of submitting to God. They are like their father, the devil. He has lied to them about the undesirability of yielding to God.

The greatest honor that any person can have is being a Christian. Although the world at large does not think it an honor, it is a far greater honor than any that the world has ever devised. Those who will resist the enemy of their souls will find themselves promoted not to greatness in this world but in the world to come. The Christian's exaltation does not occur in this life but after passing to the Eternal Home above. But while here the Christian has the relationship that will garner him the honor that awaits Over There. While here the Christian is a Child of the King, an heir to His riches in glory.

Submissiveness is becoming to the Child of God. Then he is like Jesus, who had to submit to much before He finally was exalted. He had to come down to this Earth, be born as a Babe in Bethlehem. He suffered many inconveniences, including having nowhere to lay His head. He lived in the fashion of man and knew the problems that men faced in their physical lives. He also tasted death as a man, a death that He did not deserve, but one He suffered for all mankind. After His burial in a borrowed tomb, He came forth in triumph on the third day. From then on He was exalted because He had done what His Father had sent Him here to do.

There is no other person who is so well known as Jesus, even His rankest foe knows about Him. He is spoken of even by those who will have nothing to do with Him. His real exaltation will come when He returns to Earth and rules with a rod of iron. There will be none then who will dare oppose Him. This exaltation following humiliation is a pattern for the Christian.

The Christian will not be greatly honored by the world, but his exaltation will come in the future. Because of future blessings the Christian already possesses a great honor. The honor of the world will not be his to enjoy but the honor that comes from God will be so much greater. It probably does not seem very honorable when persecuted and provoked in this life but that will change in the future when God does the honoring.

Are you looking for a great honor? Although the honors of this world may escape you, be patient for there is an honor that the world can never give. You can have the greatest honor of all, you can be a Christian. That will be an honor in this life and in Eternity.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1, 1931

A PARABLE

J. E. Bryant

It is as a man who journeyed into a far country and finding a people who were deeply in debt and having not wherewith to pay they were imprisoned until they should pay the debt, he paid the debt and liberated them. He loved these people and had a great desire to provide for them. So he built for them a house. In looking at it, it was manifest that the Architect who planned the building was one with extraordinary mind and the builder was of more than ordinary skill. Moreover, he furnished the house with all necessary furniture, placing each piece in its proper place, as he wished it to remain in the position in which he placed it. He then sent out invitations by different messengers to come and occupy the house, assuring that there was room for all. Many came and were happy in the use of the house and the furniture, for all who came had covenanted to comply with the terms of occupancy. At length some who had looked into other houses and seen the furniture there concluded that the furnishings provided by their benefactor was too old fashioned, not up-to-date, and thus a dissatisfaction was created. They talked to others about it and so their dissatisfaction spread. Finally, by their refusing to use the furnishings, they automatically vacated the building, for the great benefactor had made the building and the furnishings, with their positions, inseparable. So a great many vacated, taking with them a few heirlooms as mementoes; they also took with them the nameplate which had been attached to the building, for thereby some would be more contented; furthermore, because of its former association, it would be helpful as a recommendation to them as they moved away, and would also serve as a means of distinguishing them from other associations which had arisen or might arise. But there were some who obstinately refused to vacate; for their great benefactor had said, "occupy till I return; for I will return; and if I find you faithful in occupying and loyally using the furniture of the house and observing the restrictions embodied in the terms of the covenant for the occupancy of the house, then I will take you unto myself that where I am there you may be also. He that is faithful to the terms agreed upon at the time of entrance into this house shall have an eternal inheritance with me in my Father's house. Thus those who vacated have "gone off", and those who refuse to vacate are going on.

NEWS ITEMS**1991 GENERAL CONFERENCE****June 15-19, 1991**

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held at the Mission Springs Conference Center, Santa Cruz, California, June 15 through 19, 1991.

Please send reservations to:

Bro. Henry Walker
12413 Delaware Rd.
Hickman, CA 95323

or

Bro. Ron Peters
5736 Beckwith Rd.
Modesto, CA 95351

More information will be given later.

Bro. Henry Walker
Lodging Committee

THANK YOU

I want to express my sincere thanks to the Brethren and Sisters and kind friends over the Brotherhood for the many prayers, cards, letters, flowers, telephone calls and other expressions of love while nursing a broken arm. It all meant so much to me. May God bless each one for your love and concern. We have a wonderful Saviour, let us be true and faithful to the end of life's journey.

In Christian love,
Sister Della Ebling



Neglect is enough to ruin a man. One who is in business need not commit forgery or robbery to ruin himself; he has only to neglect his business, and his ruin is certain. A man who is lying on a bed of sickness need not cut his throat to destroy himself; he has only to neglect the means of restoration, and he will be ruined. A man floating in a skiff above Niagara need not move an oar, or make an effort, to destroy himself; he has only to neglect using the oar at the proper time, and he will certainly be carried over the cataract.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:

Why Triune Baptism

Plain Dressing

Which is the Right Church?

The Service of Feet Washing as a

Religious Rite

What Shall I Do With The

Commandments of Jesus?

Daily Reminder

The Lord's Supper

The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil

The Brethren's Card

Do You Want Salvation?

Bible Teachings

The Sabbath - Its Origin and

Observance

PUBLICATION BOARD

BIBLE MONITOR (semi-monthly)

\$2.00 per year in advance.

BRETHREN HYMNAL (heavy back)

\$9.00 ea. \$105.00 doz. Plus Postage

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\$.55 ea; \$6.00 doz.

The New Testament History

\$.60 ea; \$6.50 doz.

Minutes of General Conference in

One Volume

\$4.25 ea. plus \$.35 postage each.

No charge for the following:

Polity Booklet

Instructions for Applicants

Baptismal Certificate Blanks

Church Letter Blanks

Credential Blanks

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as "thot" for thought, "2" for two; "&" for and, etc.

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."

12. Read these and then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. March - Quinter, KA
 First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA
 Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO
 Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA
 First Sat. May - Pleasant Home, CA
 First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA
 Second Sat. May - Dayton, VA
 Third Sat. May - West Fulton, OH
 Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA
 Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA
 Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD
 Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Swallow Falls, MD
 First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD
 Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA
 Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, PA
 Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH
 Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA
 First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home, CA
 First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA

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B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, exit 6. The church and the school are located together.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD.

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under the freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, WV area, travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right, go three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north, take Maryland Rt. #135 at McCoolle (just north of Keyser, WV) seven miles to Bloomington, MD. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12½ miles to church on right.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn north off Rt. 44 onto County Rd. R16 at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is ¾ mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #63. Go to fourth stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County #130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen, turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block, turn left on W. Clinton St. Go one mile to Green Rd., turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and turn south one block.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second cross-roads, turn right. The brick church is on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into east and west, and by Rt. 641 into north and south. The church is located on West Keller St., (corner of Keller and Washington St.), four blocks west of Market St. or Rt. 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Rt. 16 will lead west to Rt. 114.

Brightbill's House — located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. #50 and then north one mile.

MOUNTAINDALE, MARYLAND

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountindale, Maryland, from the east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses 15, a half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: From the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Ave. to Claus Road (approximately six miles), turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon. The church is on the left. Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rte. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

NEWBERG, OREGON

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stoplight, turn right on N. Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Streets. Entering from the west, turn left at first stoplight onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Streets.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

SHREWSBURY, PA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on County Road 20. The church is on Road 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Rt. 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on County Road 20 at a store. The church is one and one-half miles.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

About midway between Frederick, MD and Hanover, PA. One-fourth mile east on Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, MD.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., turn right on Brookside (marked with a Highland Springs sign) go to Jonathan, turn left, go to Lincoln, turn right and go to church which is on left side of road.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA -

Ward's Church is located in South-Central Pennsylvania about halfway between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40, about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. Ward's Church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held second, fourth and fifth Sundays, at 10:00 a.m.

HART, MICHIGAN - From Muskegon go north on Route 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1½ miles to tee in road, turn right. Go approximately one-half mile to church on left side of road.

PINE GROVE, MISSISSIPPI - Located near Collins, Mississippi. At the present time we are meeting for

services every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Visitors are welcome. Contact Bro. Jan Heisey, R. 1 Box 31, Taylorsville, MS 39168, Telephone 601-785-4461.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road going to the left. A Mission sign marks the junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Mary Alice Skiles; Renita Trujillo; Loren Carpenter; Dean Shaffer; Brenda Keller; Mona Noecker and Michael and Gina Gish. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: R. 2 Box 8; Cuba, New Mexico 87013; Ph.: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXIV

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NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

Sometimes when paths get rough
And you stumble to your knees,
Just truly have faith in God
For He knows your every need.

The world comes crashing down
And it tears your life apart,
But our God is watching you —
You must feel it in your heart!

You may be discouraged,
And may think that no one cares,
But friend, you must remember
That our Lord is really there.

Just pray to our Father
That He will forgive your faults —
That He will take you to Heaven
When your life comes to a halt.

Sister Linda L. Blocher

IMPETUOUS PETER AND HIS SWORD

One of the most interesting characters in the New Testament is Simon Peter. He was not a man of great intellectual attainments nor was he given to quietness and retirement. Often he was the center of action. During the ministry of Jesus it was Peter who could blurt out great truths and in almost the same breath say words that greatly troubled Jesus. It was Peter who made the confession that Jesus was the Son of God, yet he was the same man who would deny Him thrice. He could be the best helper of all Jesus' disciples and he could also be the most embarrassing. He was a man of action, not reflection. He was impetuous.

This impetuosity was evident that dark night when Judas led the band of soldiers to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. There Judas betrayed Jesus to His captors by a kiss. Peter decided to rescue Jesus by flailing away with his sword. The result of his wild swings was lopping off the ear of Malchius, the high Priest's servant. His military action was not very impressive and not at all helpful. Jesus reproved him for his use of the sword. Jesus wiped out Peter's action by restoring the ear of Malchius.

Actually Peter's action was useless for Jesus was well able to protect Himself, if He had chosen to. When the soldiers first approached Him, they fell back to the ground and were unable to secure Him until He had secured their promise to let His disciples go unharmed. Even with this display of Heavenly power, Peter still felt called to try to defend Jesus. But Jesus did not want to be defended for He was determined to do His Father's will which required Him to yield Himself to those in authority so the plan of salvation could be instituted by His death, burial and resurrection.

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Despite Jesus' ability to protect Himself and His followers. Despite His teachings concerning not using violence to secure their desires, Peter decided impetuously to take action. We might commend him for his willingness to risk all for Jesus' sake, but it was ill-conceived. On a practical level, he was one against many well-armed and well-trained soldiers. It was dark, he could not see what he was doing, so his efforts were not very effective. The only one he wounded was Malchius who had only a very minimal role in the arrest of Jesus.

Peter's reaction is the reaction of the natural man. On a human level people react to dangers of this sort by striking out with their weapons, whether fists, guns, swords or any other type of weapon. Self-defense is a very human trait, whether on a personal or national level. Men strike out like Peter did and the results are about the same. Rather than allowing God to rule and overrule in the sticky situations of life, men are prone to impetuously strike out. They are, in their own minds, righting wrongs, done to them individually or to their country.

Usually violence is justified by many lofty sentiments, whether patriotic, economic or even religious. There have been many wars fought for religious reasons. These so-called holy wars have often been the cruelest and bitterest of all wars.

Peter was very ineffective in his attack. He accomplished nothing. If Jesus had not been there to protect him, he probably would have been arrested or even killed for his bit of swordplay. Jesus had to fix the damage that Peter had done, by restoring Malchius' ear. This is the good that comes out of warfare. Every war produces more problems than it solves. There is economic dislocation caused by the war on the battlefield and on the homefront. People are killed, maimed, and harmed physically and psychologically. War is always accompanied by a lowered moral climate. Because war is immoral, it breeds a climate that fosters immorality. There is less regard for law and order, for personal rights and for the sacredness of personal relationships. Even away from the battlefield this immorality grows. Gentleness, love, joy, peace and such characteristics are not encouraged in a war-making atmosphere.

Very often even governments and groups of governments react just about as impetuously as Peter. They need very little provoking until they are ready to begin fighting. Yet when the war has come to an end, even if one side is considered the "winner", the problems that caused the war are left unresolved. Often the unresolved problems of one war lead to another war. The human suffering caused by war and the aftermath of war are staggering, for war can never solve anything.

The only solution to the problems of mankind is Jesus Christ. Through Him men can have peace with God, which will give them a peace within, which will cause them to seek peace with one another.

Do not be an impetuous Peter. Be an effective follower of the Prince of Peace.

MAN'S MISPLACED TRUST

Psalms 20:7, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

In Biblical times horses and chariots were the supreme weapons of war. An army's strength was frequently measured by how many horses and chariots it possessed. Israel was tempted over and over again to assess her ability to fight by how many chariots and horses she had. Or she feared for her security by how many the opposing army had.

From a military view point they were very desirable. Chariots and horses could move quickly from one position to another, giving the advantage of surprise and strength. A soldier in a chariot was a difficult target to hit and could fire many arrows or spears while moving swiftly from place to place. They were formidable weapons much to be desired.

As we write, the horses and chariots of this age are once again being brought to bear in war. There is a deadly fascination with the instruments of death that are being used. Their precision and accuracy, their ability to destroy grip us and can easily lull us into a sense of security. And even more, their strength can lull us into a false sense of the rightness of our cause.

We do not pretend to have enough wisdom or discernment to know how God seeks to express His will in this war with Iraq. Perhaps God is choosing to discipline and chastize a very lawless man and his government. Perhaps our own government and her allies will be humbled by some cataclysmic event. Perhaps these are all part of the events of the endtime. While we cannot say how this is God's will we can say, **THIS IS NOT GOD'S WAY.**

God's way is not to amass great armies and their military might in order to bring about faith in His name. Rather, in the face of a heavily armored Goliath He has sent out a David with only a slingshot. When Gideon gathered his army the Lord pruned it down from thousands to three hundred. Jehoshaphat set out singers to praise the name of the Lord at the head of his army and God smote their enemies. On more than one occasion Jerusalem was surrounded by opposing armies and God would deliver through supernatural means. God's way is always to bring His people to rely upon Him, not their own

strength. Rather, in weakness, in suffering, in death upon a cross God reveals His battle plan to defeat an enemy, no army with its armaments could ever defeat. Through Jesus, and faith in His name, sin, death, and the grave are vanquished.

We pray for God's will to be done in this war. We can be confident that in spite of the sin and evil of man that God shall accomplish His purposes. But most importantly we pray for His way to be expressed in our lives. His way will lead us to follow Jesus even though it may lead to suffering, persecution, or even death. Yet, we can go His way because the victory has already been won in our hearts. We are not prisoners of war but soldiers liberated from sin. We are not bound by the fear of death and the grave but already living out the promise of eternal life. Though our nation is at war we are free to pray and work, not for the defeat of our enemies, but their salvation. The weapons of our warfare are spiritual, not carnal. Let us continually remind ourselves to put our trust in the name of the Lord.

Brother Phil Franklin
1528 Brannon Ave.
Modesto, CA 95350

TESTIMONY FOR PEACE

Ord L. Strayer

The teachings of the Bible on non-resistance are not restricted to a few obscure and isolated passages. Neither are they limited to the Sermon on the Mount as some believe who are willing to accept the Bible as generally authentic but believe that the teachings of Jesus on the Mount were idealistic and impracticable. The theme of peace and good will is repeated over and over so often and in so many different instances and contexts that honest persons can hardly escape the conviction that this theme is an inseparable and highly important part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul writes: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." There is real danger of losing sight of the real enemies of the Christian life. Evil so frequently comes to us through the instrumentality of human beings that we lose sight of the fact of evil and personify evil in the deeds of men who have embraced evil philosophy. If a misdeed is committed we single out the individual who is responsible, exhibit him on a figurative pillory and mete out punishment in proportion to the crime. It is assumed that the evil to be wrestled against is the man, rather than the power of satan, under whose domination the man acted. But, as the Apostle Paul writes,

ours conflict is against spiritual wickedness. Our primary concern is not to overcome men, but to overcome satan who causes men to act in an evil manner. Therefore, our real concern is to overcome the spirit of evil, which is satan.

Spiritual weapons are essential to spiritual conflict. Paul, after describing the nature of the struggle in which the Christian is to engage, goes on to prescribe the "whole armor of God" which is the effective weapon and enables him to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.

During the past few years the Dunkard Brethren Church has been undergoing a severe test. One aspect of that test has been whether or not her young men are thoroughly grounded in the doctrine of non-resistance. Whether we are willing to admit it or not, Christians constantly find themselves in situations in everyday life which test their non-resistant position. But this is the first time the position of the Dunkard Brethren Church has been tested in actual war conditions and it is interesting to note the reaction of our young brethren "under fire" or in the actual testing stage.

We had not looked ahead except when preparations were instituted, and the efficiency with which they functioned are a fine commentary upon both the young brethren who were affected and the men who were charged with the responsibility of contact between our drafted brethren and the provisions that were made for objectors. Without tendency or desire to boast, it may be said that a surprising few of those of our members who were drafted failed to take advantage of the assignment to Civilian Public Service work.

In a number of respects the CPS program was not ideal but it was far and away better than the lack of arrangements which characterized the relation between the objectors and the Government during the first world war. None except those who experienced both situations can capably draw a comparison between the two. It may be that if, in the future, there should be the necessity of dealing with this subject again, the experiences of Civilian Public Service in the second world war will dedicate the institution of an entirely different plan. However, even if a future plan should be necessary (which God forbid) and such a plan should be built along lines similar to that we have just experienced, our cooperation should be no less hearty. If we are given an opportunity to do constructive instead of destructive work we should encourage the improvement of such an opportunity, and give it such support as we can because of the good that is in it.

There is no particular value in lamenting those aspects of the past in which one has failed, and in which the record cannot be changed. There is a great deal of value, however, in buildings in the light of

past errors, to reach new heights. Certainly there is much we can learn from the experiences of the past few years. Can we visualize what our testimony for peace will be ten or twenty years hence, in the event that similar circumstances might surround us? Can our testimony be made more effective and stronger than it has been? I think it can.

The Christian is in the world but not of it. One of the most outstanding differences between the teaching of Christ and the teaching of the Old Hebrew leaders was that Christ taught positively, that is objectively. The Jews had been accustomed to the dry, dogmatic, hide-bound teaching of the Scribes and the Pharisees which was negative in substance. It was the sort of teaching which attempts to bring about by legalistic maneuvers that which should have been done and could have been done with far greater efficiency, by concentration on the strengthening of the Spiritual life. Repeatedly it is recorded that Jesus said, "ye have heard it said of old time..." "But I say unto you..." and then follows one of the positive, simple objective teachings which prompted the biographer to record, "for He taught as one having authority, and not as the Scribes." The outstanding feature of the teaching of Christ was the pedagogic principle which has been made the model for all good teachers since Christ's short stay with us in the flesh.

The lesson we must learn is that we cannot merely say that we will not participate in warlike activities nor prepare for war. We have a God-given opportunity to show that the mercy and helpfulness that Christ gave us as examples are more effective than the force to which nations resort in the settling of difficulties. We also have an opportunity to show that an earnest and sincere desire to use the "Golden Rule" in our dealings with each other, individuals or nations, will almost invariably prevent the rise of situations which selfishness and so called "self preservation" dictate must be settled by resort to arms. Let us as a church set in operation a constructive program of helpfulness to the ignorant, the unfortunate, the displaced, (there are millions) the sick and the needy. Let our young men and women prepare themselves for service (which is the first step towards preparation for leadership) and actually and actively engage in the war "from which there is no discharge." Then if the time comes that we are compelled to again take a stand against participation in war, we shall have a record of positive action behind us which will show that we are actively interested in the salvation, not the destruction, of men.

Selected by Brother Ray Reed
from July 1, 1947 Bible Monitor

THE PRICE TAGS OF LIFE

The Vice President of the Greun Watch Company in a speech before a church group, made this statement. "The good things of life have to be paid for in advance, while the evil things we do, have to be paid for at a later date."

We can read in the Old and New Testaments the price men had to pay for the evil which they did. Jesus very vividly in Matthew 13 and other passages illustrates the price to be paid for some of the good things of life.

Jesus so beautifully describes how a man discovered in a field he was working in, a large treasure. "... For joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." **THE PRICE TAG FOR THAT FIELD WAS THE TOTAL VALUE OF ALL THE OTHER POSSESSIONS THAT HE OWNED.** He sold all of them to buy the better one.

Similarly, a man found a pearl of great price. To possess it, he had to dispose of all his other possessions, to obtain it. He valued the pearl so highly, that he willingly paid the price.

Jesus is that pearl that we want to obtain. To do so, we must do as the fishermen did, in order to become disciples, "We must forsake all (the price tag for salvation) and follow Him.

A young man, who observed Jesus laying His hand on children and blessing them came to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what must I do to inherit Eternal Life?" His answer, "Go and sell that thou hast, and come and follow me." The price was too great. He went away sorrowful.

There is a price tag to be paid for the evil which we do, also. David found a huge price tag on a crime which he had committed. God collected in full for it. When the first installment was made, Nathan stood before him and related to him a story of a rich man taking a lamb from a poor man. David, deeply stired said, "Show me the man and I shall punish him." Nathan pointed his finger to David and answered with the scorching words, "Thou art the man." David experienced the suffering and humiliation that this price tag carried.

The evil things we do have big price tags and we pay for every one of them. If, after we have sinned, we acknowledge it to God and ask forgiveness, that is the easiest way to pay, but, if we fail using that payment plan, on the day of Judgment, we will have to pay the full price for our unforgiven sins.

Haman was jealous of Mordecai. That is a serious sin. The Bible states that it is as cruel as the grave. Haman had a gallows made with the express purpose of hanging Mordecai. That was a truly cruel sin and it carried a huge price tag. The price was high. Haman was hanged on his own gallows.

Sometime, the price tag for sin is not so dramatically portrayed. Sometimes the suffering and remorse is never revealed to the public, but that still small voice of our conscience can whip, flay and burn us until we cry with Cain of old, "MY PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR."

Recently, the collector of Internal Revenue received a letter, stating, "Enclosed herewith is a check for \$5,000.00 which I owe on my past income tax. I am sending it because I have been unable to sleep at night. If I can't sleep now, I will send you the balance." His conscience was partly seared and if he could sleep after paying part of his tax debt, it probably was completely seared.

The good things of life carry a price tag. The tag on the hidden treasure and pearl of great price was, "SELL ALL THAT THOU HAST."

On one occasion, two of His disciples requested the privilege of sitting on the right and left hand of Jesus in His kingdom. Christ answered, "Ye know not what you ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptizing with." They said unto Him, "We are able." They paid the price with the martyrs' death.

When we willingly accept the deacon's office, the Ministry or Eldership in the church, we are publicly declaring that we are willing to pay the price. The price is, THE CHURCH FIRST.

I am a firm believer that many individuals know what is required to live a Christian life, but the price tag is too high. THEY WILL NOT PAY THE PRICE.

The price tags for our salvation were very high, but Christ paid them for us. Backlashes, crown of thorns, spikes, spears and unlimited suffering.

HE PAID IT ALL. ALL TO HIM WE OWE.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, OH 44718

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Do You Have an Enthusiastic Witness?"

Whether we like it or not, we are now living in the most decisive years of the history of this world. There has never been such a strategic hour and never before has dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ been more important than it is for us right now. Longfellow wrote, almost prophetically,

"Humanity with all its fears
With all its hopes for future years
Is hanging, breathless on THY fate."

The fate of billions of people is death without Jesus.

We have a greater opportunity today than anytime in the past... with an explosive population of around four billion people... to inspire others to service of the Lord. We must show an enthusiasm for service and outreach to bring others to an understanding of salvation and righteousness in this generation. It may well be the final one.

I read a story recently that really emphasized the value of enthusiasm. It happened on a train. Some years ago, a man was traveling on a business trip. As he sat there, a young man about thirty years of age entered. He joined him at the table and they exchanged, "good mornings." Conversation progressed from generalities to specifics. As they looked out of the train window, they saw some farms. In one barn yard they saw a large flock of chickens coming out for their morning feed.

It was then the younger man took the spot light. He began to talk about chickens. Instantly, the older executive became interested, because of the enthusiasm he had for his subject. His talk was alive, filled with information. He told about the nation's prize hen and how many eggs she laid. He told of the different personalities of chickens... from Plymouth Rocks to Leghorns. He communicated how important chicken feed was if a farmer was to get a proper return on his investment. And finally, he remarked that the butter and egg and chicken money from America's farms would probably pay more college tuitions for farm children than any other single fund in the country. It was the first time the executive had ever realized that the rooster played an important part in our education system!

As the man got off the train, he bid the executive a cheery goodbye and gave him his card. He had wondered who this interesting young gentleman was. Certainly he must have held some high position in agriculture. His card gave him the answer... he was a chicken feed salesman. Because of his enthusiasm, the man had forgotten his steel business and had been put for a time in the chicken business.

We should, with the same interest, be able to tell others about Jesus Christ, our Saviour, with the highest degree of enthusiasm. We should not be afraid to show our happiness and how important our Christian experience is to us. When we share in this way with others, we will actually find pleasure in that communication. It will be real and alive to them and they will desire to have what you have.

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR WORLD... The Bible guarantees it! Now is the time to get a little radical for your righteousness and be willing to sacrifice for God's glory and the salvation of the walking dead of this generation. Their lives depend on you. Their eternity depends on you. Their safety depends on the Sword you carry in your hand and under your arm.

The Great Commission fulfillment by YOU will tell the story as to whether someone will enjoy Heaven or whether he will help to enlarge the population of Hell.

Only if you are really **DEDICATED** and **ENTHUSED** will you be able to infect others to a commitment of Christ. God has called you. You have accepted the call. Now, a critical world is watching and waiting for your message. It is important! It is the "feed" that can take them away from thinking about other seemingly important things and center their thoughts and lives on the eternal. God can use you... and He will... if you are willing to be obedient to the call... to enthusiasm in the service of the Lord.

Let the person to whom you are communicating know that sin is deadly and God hates it. Then give him the messages of: (1) **RETHINKING** his values. (2) **REPENTING** and turning away from the sin filled life. (3) **RENOUNCING** the old life with its "rights." (4) Help him to understand how to **REPLAN** and change his life. And finally, (5) Tell him he must **RECEIVE** the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Jesus must become his absolute **BOSS** from now on. He must die to the world and surrender his heart totally to the Master. **RETHINK, REPENT, RENOUNCE, REPLAN, RECEIVE.** That is the road to a new life... you have the map.

The time to enthusiastically witness for Christ is **NOW!** God has done all for you. Do **ALL** you can for Him.

Brother Len Wertz

HARD TIMES

Philippians 4:11-12, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

"Luke 14:8-11, "When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto

thee, friend, Go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Have you ever been hungry? I am not talking about a dieter's situation, but I mean a time of pure need. If you would have had an apple, you would have eaten the core, the seeds, and all. Most people have never been this hungry, and would not know how to act if ever they were.

The Apostle Paul was raised in a rich home, had the best food, the best teachers, and the best of everything. The first thing God did to him was knock him to the ground. He lay broken and humiliated before God: blinded and humbled. No man has a greater reason to be proud. His ancestry, his upbringing, his education, his station in life all were perfect. He was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. He had everything a person could ever want to offer God. Yet all these things meant little in the final analysis. He had to be made low in order to serve God, and his posture throughout his life did not change. Many would have loved to worship him: to bow and kiss his feet, as many religious people do their clergy today. But he pointed the way to Christ, with all humility and grace, just as we, Christ's servants, need to do today.

Jesus had no certain dwelling place throughout His short life on this earth, and neither did Paul. Many times our endeavor to have the things of this life (those things over and above that which we have been promised — food and raiment) hurt our testimony for Christ. We should not labor for the bread that perishes, but for the bread which gives eternal life. Many of us work so hard to maintain a lifestyle of perfection that we cannot possibly serve God with what little time we allot Him. We put our wives out to work to get useless "things" which perish with the using. In some cases there probably is a need for both parents to work, but not at the expense of the children, or to keep up "appearances." Many people's lives are totally wrapped up in riches. Back in 1929 when the stock market fell and the banks closed, many could not cope with soured fortunes, and they chose suicide.

Historically, the Brethren believed in simple, unadorned, uncomplicated lives. We have always balked at new innovations, knowing that it was wrong to rush out and get "some new thing." (Acts 17:21) The people of America today probably could not live without their televisions, video games, racing-style autos, wall-to-wall carpet, and the like. But did you know that in times past the Brethren spoke out against curtains, rugs of any kind, central heating, cars any color other than black, and clean-shaven faces? Where is our easy lifestyle taking us? Some see it as "growing with

the times" but this writer sees it as "dying with the times." I am just not comfortable in many homes because I would be afraid of breaking some valuable, costly icon.

If hard times would come again, and they probably will, how would we react? Hopefully we could adjust, by the grace of God, and be an ever present witness to His grace. But would it not be shameful to work so hard to attain the unattainable in this life only to see it fall in cinders at our feet? Would it not be better to labor for the meat of eternal life? When hard times come some of us, who have lived through hard times already, will adjust. Some of us, however, had better start adjusting now.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1931

SOME PERTINENT SCRIPTURES

B. E. Kesler

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." This being true, there is no condition in life but may be covered by scripture teaching rightly applied.

The trouble with us is, we may make wrong interpretation and application of the scripture. All scripture should be interpreted in the light of the time and occasion in which it was given. For instance, the teaching of Christ on "the unpardonable sin" or "sin against the Holy Ghost", was prompted by the accusation that He was in league with the devil and casting out devils "by Beelzebub the prince of devils", which Jesus interprets as "blasphemy against the Holy Ghost", by whom he was performing miracles. So that the "unpardonable sin" is "blasphemy against the Holy Ghost", and to try to make it mean something else is "wresting the scriptures."

The teaching on the disorder at Corinth on the prayer covering and the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11) was prompted by conditions that existed in the Corinthian church at that time and did not apply to other places where the disorder did not exist. These teachings were local in their applications then, but become general when similar conditions exist now. But to apply them where similar conditions do not exist is "wresting the scriptures." The same is true of the teaching and the scriptures addressed to the seven churches of Asia. They apply now only where similar conditions exist.

From the foregoing we call your attention to the following for consideration:

The Law of Equity.

"Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them", and "with whatsoever measure ye meet, it shall be measured to you again."

The Law of Love

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself", and that we should "love one another, as he gave us commandment", and "if a man say 'I love God' and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" And "Why beholdest thou the mote that is thy brother's eye, and considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Evil Speaking

"Let no filthy communication proceed out of thy mouth", and "blessed is the man that taketh not up a reproach against his neighbor"; "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"; and "put them in mind to speak evil of no man"; and "speak not evil one of another, brethren"; and "lay aside all guile, envies, and evil speaking"; and "let your speech be always with grace seasoned with salt"; and "lie not one to another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds."

Backbiting

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?... He that backbiteth not with his tongue"; and "for I fear... lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strife, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults"; and "the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, among our members, it defileth the whole body, and so forth."

These scriptures, unlike the first two cited above, are general in their nature and application. No particular incident prompted the giving of them, and so are general in nature and apply wherever there is transgression. What a wonderful reformation would be wrought in our lives, and what change in our relationships would be affected, and what peace and tranquility would prevail amongst us, and how many hearts would be unburdened, and how many angels even would rejoice, and how Jesus would be glorified, were all scriptures respected and obeyed!

A time ago God said to the prophet, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins." Again we are told, "in many

things we offend all", and "happy is he that condemneth not himself in the thing he alloweth", and to many of us it may be a chastisement to say "physician, heal thyself" or "they who live in glass houses should not throw stones." And it is true, "No chastisement for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous, but afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of the Spirit in them that are exercised thereby."

A little self-examination and self-denial along these lines might work wonders in our lives and bring down wonderful blessings upon us. Add to all this the spirit of forgiveness and brotherly kindness and charity and see how quickly our forebodings, worries and anxieties, our doubts and our fears vanish away.



NEWS ITEMS

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Welcome to our revival meetings from March 24 to March 31. Bro. David Aungst from the Bethel Congregation has consented to bring the messages from God's Holy Word.

What better place to be than in the house of God with Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, praying for the lost and praising God for all His Goodness!

Are we ready, watching, waiting and looking for His soon coming to call His loved ones Home! What a GREAT HOME for the redeemed!

Pray for Bro. David as he labors with us in these meetings.

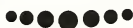
Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation is looking forward to our spring meeting, March 15 through 17, 1991. Lord willing, Bro. Jim Meyers of Dallas Center, Iowa will bring God's Word to us on Friday evening.

We invite you all to come. Let's draw closer to one another and to Almighty God. He is King!

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1991

March 3 - The Lord Makes the Rules - James 4:11-17.

1. What causes us to want to judge others?
2. Are you mindful of God's will in daily decisions?

March 10 - The Tragedy of Riches - James 5: 1-7.

1. Why do riches often become a snare? Pro. 30:8-9.
2. What results from trusting in riches? Pro. 23:5, Deut. 8:13-14.

March 17 - Endurance - James 5:8-12.

1. How can we prepare to endure to the end?
2. What promise is for those that endure?

March 24 - Prayer of Faith - Anointing - James 5:13-20.

1. Who do you trust for healing - the doctor in town or in Heaven?
2. What can hide a multitude of sins? Matt. 10:22, James 1:12.

March 31 - THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST - Mark 16:1-20.

1. What does the resurrection mean to us?
2. What is the "power of the resurrection?"

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1991

March 3 - Ignorance - Isaiah 1:1-9, Isaiah 59:1-8, I Pet. 1:13-16.

1. How does one live when in ignorance? Eph. 4:18.
2. Is ignorance really bliss? Eph. 4:14.

March 10 - Love - I Cor. 13:1-13.

1. Name the qualities of love.
2. What is the crowning mark of a Christian?

March 17 - Values - Joshua 24:13-15, Jeremiah 5:1-4, Rev. 3:14-22.

1. Make a list of things you value.
2. Does your list align with God's or the world's values?

March 24 - Our Prayer Life - Dan. 6:10, II Chro. 7:12-15, Matt. 7:7-11, Rom. 8:26-34, Matt. 26:40-44.

1. What is prayer to you?
2. Why is prayer so vital to us?

March 31 - Christianity - Rom. 5:1-11, II Peter 1:5-11.

1. Define Christianity.
2. What separates Christianity from all other religions?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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MARCH 1, 1991

NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LOVING AND CARING

It's double-fold joy,
It's double-fold pleasure,
To share our happiness
Is bliss without measure.

To care is to share;
To love is to give,
We show what we are
By the way that we live.

When we see others happy,
Then we are happy, too.
Happiness breeds contentment;
Someone cares about you.

Bring joy to someone
In any way you can.
It will not be a loss;
It will return again.

- Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

TOO BUSY

We live in a time and society that is constantly on the move. Despite all the modern conveniences and labor-saving devices that are so much a part of our daily lives, we still always seem to be running behind. There are so many things that we just do not have the time to get done. We readily acknowledge that these deeds ought to be done but yet bewail the fact that we just don't have the time necessary to do them. So they remain undone. Perhaps later we will look back and realize that we should have done these things and left some of the supposedly more important and pressing things undone. We may look back and realize that the bottom line and a good time are not in the end the most important things in our lives.

With all the labor-saving devices it would seem that there would be plenty of time to do the little tasks that seem to escape us. Most tasks on the farm and in the home are now so much easier and quicker done than just a few years ago. There is little physical drudgery compared to past times. The "Good Old Days" were not as wonderful as our memories might indicate, but seemingly in the midst of the hard labor there was time to visit neighbors, to invite others in for a meal, to write letters and to comfort the grieving. These very times of social interaction are the ones that are so much missing in today's world. We often bemoan the lack of time to visit or to write or to comfort.

If we do make the effort sometime, we find it very enjoyable. We vow to continue to do it, but soon fall back into our old pattern of being too busy. There may be some guilt feelings for awhile but soon they are overcome by the necessity of making a living and doing our supposedly more important things.

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If we think back to an earlier time, when there was more time for these social activities, and realize the changes that have come during our lifetime, then we look ahead to future generations and project how much busier our children and grandchildren will be in their lifetimes than we are, then how many of these social activities will be done? If we have set the current pace as an example for our children, how will they be able to decide that there are other activities besides those directly involved in money-making and fun-making?

Our concern is with the bills that have accumulated and the effort needed to pay them. Now many of those bills may have been for things that we didn't really need or they may have been for an overpriced luxury, so we become very busy so we can pay off those bills, which we probably won't do without accumulating more along the way. So it becomes a vicious cycle that continually engages our time and wits to keep ourselves ahead of financial ruin. So we don't have time to engage in the other activities that would be so appreciated by others.

The high prices paid for land, machinery, automobiles, furniture, plus many luxuries cause us to think more about investing our time in paying off these debts than about doing the little deeds that would be a blessing to others. The basic reason why we do not have time for writing letters, paying visits and doing other deeds to help and encourage others is selfishness. We have our minds so atuned to our bills and our pleasures that we do not have time to do the things that make for a blessed social life. Often the things that cost so little except some time and attention to others are the things that we ignore. They are not things that we "have" to do. We are not compelled to do them as we are by the bank or other business group to pay our debts. So we think we must put first things first. Unfortunately, we many times do not put first things first, although we may by business standards or by pleasure's demands. We think of ourselves rather than what we can do to help another. We have become selfish with our time and talents. We only want to use them for ourselves so we can get ahead in business or to have a good time. We have buried our talents that would be beneficial to others and have traded them for the talents admired in the business world.

We no longer are an isolated people but all-too-much involved in the modern world. If we are not careful, we will be more influenced by the world than by the Word of God. Our social activities will be shaped by what the world about us considers to be the standard and their standard does not include the little things that are more important to people than to business or pleasure.

Put aside your selfish use of time and let that time be used to visit, not only the aged and sick, but the active as well, to write letters, to make phone calls, to comfort the brokenhearted and to do all the other things that Jesus would do if He were here.

SALT

Mark 9:50, "Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."

Salt was more indispensable in the time of the Hebrews than even to us. They relied on it to preserve animal feed. It was required in their sacrifices and burnt offerings.

Salt is the one main seasoning in all nations of the earth. In Job 6:6 he states, "Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?"

Salt is an antiseptic. It was the custom in Bible times among the Arabs to wash a new-born baby with salt water.

Salt symbolizes hospitality, durability, purity, cleanliness as well as a preservative and other beneficial characteristics. To eat the salt of the king was to owe him the utmost fidelity. To eat salt and bread together was to make an unbreakable league of friendship.

The word for salt in the Arabic implies the same meaning as "compact" or "treaty." To confirm or bind a deal or to weld friendship among the Arabians, it is still made binding by eating salt together. Once an Arab eats salt even with an enemy, they are bound to each other anew. It is called a SALT COVENANT. We have such a covenant with Christ. "Ye are the salt of the earth."

Elisha healed the waters of the spring at Jericho, by casting a cruse of salt into the spring. Abimelech sowed the ruins of Shechem with salt to prevent the rising of a new city in its place.

The lack of salt typifies bareness. For that reason, Christ's followers are to be salty.

Lev. 2:13, "And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offerings: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt." They were provided an unlimited amount of salt. Ezra 7:21-22. They had and still have an inexhaustible supply along the Dead Sea.

Going to the text for this subject, we see by the scriptures the importance of Jesus' words, "YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH."

Studying the Bible is like studying plant life. To the Botanist, no part of a plant is unimportant. Root, stem, petal, bud, flower and so forth are all essential to the full development and fruition and life of the plant.

Jesus tells us in our text that every sacrifice must be salted with fire. If we study God's Word, we will find time and again, in the Old Testament in both the Law and the Prophets, that those who offered sacrifices, were instructed to never burn an offering without salt. It was for the betterment of the meat and better tasting to the partaker.

Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth." WHY? That we might improve the Spiritual condition of mankind. If we lack that salt, we are not fully converted. We should be thankful for Jesus' Words, as recorded in Matt. 5:13. "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." It is a fact that the problems the world are facing today is because the so-called SALT has LOST its Saviour. The Bible teaches that even our speech is to be seasoned with salt.

As one who preceded us by nearly two thousand years, the Apostle Paul made a few statements I wish to conclude with:

"But by the grace of God I am what I am:..." I Cor. 15:10.

But if I fail the grace of God (Heb. 12:15) or

frustrate the Grace of God (Gal. 2:21) or

do despite to the Spirit of grace (Heb. 10:29) or

receive the grace of God in vain (II Cor. 6:1)

I know what fate shall await me.

I shall no longer be "Salt of the earth" but shall be "Good for nothing."

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Life After the Flood

The earth began to dry off and the deluge was past. The Ark was now parked on the mountain top and it was time for God's man, Noah, and his family to enter into the "brave new world." The "post-deluvian" age had begun. Noah immediately did what a man of God would do. He built an altar and offered sacrifices to the Lord. And as a result, God was to bless him with a special promise that He would never smite every living thing with a flood again. God pledged His faithfulness by the token of the "bow in the cloud." (Gen. 9:12-17) Now the earth was pure again. It had been washed of sin. As a hunter places his bow on the shelf after its use, the Lord put His bow in the sky after He shot it on the earth with the flood.

Noah became the progenitor of the new life on earth along with his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. They were in a cleansed new environ-

ment and were living under the special promise of God. It was as though the Garden of Eden was alive and well again relative to a perfect relationship with the Creator.

Then it happened. Satan reared his ugly head. Life began to become complicated. Noah, the man of whom it was previously said "was a just man and perfect in his generations and that he walked with God" began to fall. He became a farmer and planted a vineyard. As he drank of the wine which he produced, he became drunk and was "uncovered in his tent." The Bible needed to record the sad truth of the defeat of one of God's great people. Of course, this is evidence of the Bible's truthfulness because it always identifies the faults of its "heroes" just as it does the good and great things.

Great shame came as a result of Noah's indulgence. The wine that he drank became "a mocker." (Prov. 20:1). It proved that this fairest flower that humanity had yet yielded had wilted through temptation. There was disgrace and this was increased by his younger son's subsequent action. "And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren outside." (Gen. 9:22) It would seem that the act of "uncovering one's nakedness" (Lev. 18:6-18) that occurred here was a very highly condemned one and might well have been ultimately illicit. It would seem more deliberate than accidental and Ham was to affect himself for life and for generations to come.

Ham boasted to his brothers with an arrogant spirit and disgraced Noah and God in the final analysis. There was not sensitivity here... only a sensuality.

When Noah awoke from his wine he seemed to know what the younger son had done to him. And it was at that point that he uttered a curse on Ham that would extend far beyond his immediate offspring to yet unborn generations that would issue from his son. "Cursed by Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brother." (Gen. 9:25) And... generations to come have proved to be an ungodly and sensuous group. Servitude was the final result of this sin.

This is the ultimate end of all sin. We become a Christian and at that time our world is filled with the beauty of the NEW life in the NEW Christian environment. We live on the mountain top and the air is fresh and beautiful. Our praise to God is vivid and exciting. Then it happens. We allow the "lust of the flesh, the pride of life, or the lust of the eyes" to turn our hearts away from what we know is true and right and we fall into sin. And when we fall... this is the time when we need to come back to the Father in repentance and renew our relationship and gain new heights of the Christian experience. This is the time we need to look to our Saviour's victory on Calvary and anticipate our victory over sin with His grace. It is the time to

remember the promise of overcoming if we approach the Lord with much repentance. It is the time to ask for intercessory prayer by our Christian brothers and sisters. It is time to button up our spiritual armor and go back into the battle of life to defeat these weaknesses and sins. We need not end up as Ham who is not shown to have repented for his disgraceful acts but we can be encouraged by the promise of ultimate victory in Jesus Christ.

If your past has been filled with rebellion and an arrogant spirit... please remember that the Heavenly Father is waiting for you to come back to Him with the presentation of your body and life as a living sacrifice. **YOU CAN HAVE THE VICTORY.** You can achieve greater heights of spirituality. Let go of the past... let the Giver of the Future control you completely and make something beautiful again out of your life. There IS life after the flood!

Brother Len Wertz

RESPECTING AUTHORITY

Romans 13:1, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

I Timothy 5:17, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

Matthew 7:28-29, "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

Revelation 13:2, "And the beast which I saw was like unto the leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

As we write this a major portion of the world is once again involved in a terrible war. Carnal warfare not only brings division between the two sides fighting the war but it also brings division among individuals and organizations. Once again the supra-patriots, the just-war advocates and the political pacifists will argue their cases and rail accusations against one another. Many are flying the flag in support of those who are fighting the war, while anti-war protesters are once again marching in the streets.

It is reported that rock music now contains words that encourage youth to rebel against any type of authority. We have heard that in some public schools children are taught to disregard the authority of a parent. The authority of church officials is being questioned all the way from "Fundamentalists" to the authority of the Pope.

Church leaders are questioning the authority of government in such areas as taxation, the education of children and interference in church matters.

The verse taken from Romans 13:1 along with the following verses in this chapter is the major proof text for those who teach that it is a Christian's responsibility to fight in a carnal war when his government calls for him to do so. However, all this portion of Scripture is teaching is that God has ordained ALL government. Although we may not understand it, God has ordained Saddam Hussein to be the ruler of Iraq the same as he has ordained President Bush to be the ruler of this nation. We do not believe God commands individuals to fight for the nation of Iraq which is under the false teaching of the Islam religion nor for any other nation. The teaching that America is a Christian nation (or once was) is a dangerous teaching. It leads to the false notion that fighting for America is fighting for God!

We believe the best interpretation of Scripture is Scripture itself. Let us see what Holy Scripture has to say on this subject. If you have a Bible handy I invite you to turn to I Timothy 2:1-4. "I exhort therefore that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;" We are to pray, first of all, for all men. This would include both "friend and foe." If you doubt my words listen to what our Lord Jesus Christ has instructed us. Matthew 5:43-45, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thy enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, AND PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU;" "For kings, and for all that are in authority;" We are to pray for President Bush, our congressmen, senators and all that have authority over us in Federal, State and local government if we agree with their decisions or not. But our prayers are not to stop there. We are to pray for ALL that are in authority. Just HOW we are to pray for a Saddam Hussein is not made clear in some individual's minds. However, we believe our text will answer that question also. Why are we (Christians) to pray for all who are in authority? "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." We believe it is absurd to say that we can live a quiet and peaceable life and also take up the weapons of war! The New Testament never once puts God's blessing on carnal warfare (for Christians). It says that praying for all in authority and living a quiet and peaceable life" (For this) is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior." It says concerning civil government "for he beareth not the sword in vain." If you think this is inconsistent your argument is with God not us! Now we find why we should pray for Saddam Hussein and how we are to pray. "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

We are also to respect those who have authority over us in the church, "especially they who labour in the word and doctrine." However, an elder is never to replace the Lord Jesus Christ. When a dispute arises between two elders we should pray for both and try to avoid "choosing sides" unless a Bible principle is involved. We do not have space to go into detail concerning respect for our Brethren heritage, which we believe is primarily based on the Word of God.

While government and church officials are ordained of God, they can be influenced by that old dragon, Satan. We should not blindly follow a civil law or a church rule but pray and study the Word of God. If we find it is contrary to the teaching of Holy Scripture we are under no obligation to obey in either instance. However, it is sad when church polity and tradition causes "holy war" within the church. In place of "going to war" we believe it is often best to leave if the situation calls for it.

May it be our desire to respect authority, especially the authority of God's Holy Word in the light of the teachings of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and God (along with the Father and the Holy Spirit).

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

LAUNCH OUT

"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." Luke 5:4b-5.

Jesus has told us to go. He has equipped us with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Scriptures, and good sense. He has promised to lead, protect, and empower us. So why do we doubt?

Simon was a fisherman all his life. Jesus never was a fisherman. Simon knew where the fish were, and only threw his net out the second time to humor Jesus. Yet they could hardly pull the net back in for all the fish it contained!

Can I draw a parallel to our church life today? We have been in "church work" all our lives. We know where the converts come from. We cannot just go out into the world and bring them in. Or can we? Let us not ignore the teachings of Jesus. If we preach the Gospel to EVERY CREATURE, as we have been instructed, then God will give the increase. We need not be selective, because many of us feel we are casting "pearls before swine", but we must preach to all, in faith, knowing that it is being done to the honor and glory of God.

Do not be afraid of other races and people of other backgrounds. Trust the Lord to give the increase when you preach to them. Do not be afraid of "unchurched" people living in sin. True converts to our Lord are more than willing to make their crooked paths straight.

Do not be afraid of those who can hurt the body, but rather fear those who are able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Launch out. Reach out. Love that neighbor, co-worker, relative or casual acquaintance. Invite him to church. Invite him to gospel meetings in your home. Tell him about Jesus. Your neighbor will want to know what makes you so happy, if indeed your testimony for Jesus shines through.

How is our conversation in the world? The world can tell you. Let us not be afraid to launch out and catch men.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1931

OFFERING OUR BODIES TO THE LORD

T. C. Ecker

Rom. 12:1: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

I Cor. 6-13: "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats; but God shall destroy both it and them. Now, the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body." (I Cor. 3:16-17 and 6:19-20.)

In the light of these scriptures that God does want our bodies dedicated to his service for they are his by creation and preservation, and only ours by lease. Then, why should we not present them a living sacrifice to him who is so good to his children? With the children of Israel he demanded to sacrifice continually the best they had for him; and as time went on they became indifferent and offered the lame, the halt, and blind: and it does seem as though history is repeating itself. As we look at all Christendom and search the founders of different persuasions we see they have departed from the "simple life" of their forefathers. As with ancient Israel, so with present Israel, they were told smooth things, as II Pet. 2:1 says, "But there were false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

(2nd) "How prepare them to offer." (Rom. 12:2) "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Rom. 13:14). "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof." (I Cor. 2:12; Gal. 5:16-17; Jas. 4:4; II Cor. 7:1; Jas. 1:20-22; I Tim. 2:9-10; I Pet. 1:14 and 3:3-4; I Jno. 2:15-17). We must recognize God in these scriptures, as they give the requirements for Christian bodies, as they are for a sacred use, and there must be a preparation in the light of the gospel for what Paul in I Cor. 6:19 says: "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own." (I Cor. 3:16) As we all need the guidance of the Holy Spirit which Jesus promised the disciples to guide us in all truth if we are to have it we must comply with the conditions. For the Holy Spirit will not dwell in bodies, adorned with worldliness. When we see people who profess Christianity and have their bodies half covered, showing their form and exciting passion of the opposite sex, and decorated with gold and pearls; when we have been warned not to love the world nor the things of the world. (I Jno. 2:15-16) Why not set our affection on things above and do that which is pleasing to our Father for we covenanted with him to live faithful unto death. Shall it be true? Let us remember that God resists the proud but giveth grace to the humble; few folks admit they are proud, but the outward appearance is an index of the heart. Some time ago there was a man went into a store to get a certain article. The storekeeper said he did not have it. A boy standing by said to the storekeeper, "Then take down your sign." If we want to be Christians, why not look like Christians so the world may know where we belong, as we are to be a light to the world.

Most all worldly organizations advertise in outward appearance; when we see a soldier we know him by his uniform. If we have enlisted under King Emanuel why not let the world know it, for it would help us over many temptations. Are we ashamed of Christ?

He tells us if we are ashamed of him and his word in this sinful and adulterous generation he will be ashamed of us when he comes before his Father in heaven. Many so-called Christians tell us there is nothing in the clothes, it is all in the heart. Let us look once at nature and see if that is God's way to develop life. Go to the forest and see the mighty oak. Their life is in the heart and that heart produces a protection for the life. Now remove that protection or "bark" from the oak and the life is gone. Just so it is with a Christian. When the form is gone our power is gone to resist satan, and he has been very successful in getting folks to believe that going to church once, then to movies, card parties, and such like another time is all

right. I once heard a pastor of a large congregation say, "They had set their communion services on a certain date but later found there was a ball game that day, so had to set another time; and so on the day was changed to the third time then there was some hindrance, hence a small attendance." And he told the congregation he was addressing he could see they lived their religion. If this should exist among us what will the judgment mean?

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Home of the Righteous

J. H. Moore

"Mother, home and heaven," are said to be the sweetest words in the English language, with heaven, the home of the righteous, standing at the head of the list. Heaven, the abode of the angels, and the final dwelling place of the blessed, has always been looked upon as the embodiment of everything that goes to make up true happiness. It means the end of life's journey, be it long or short, and the final and eternal resting place of the Christian pilgrim. About the land of eternal rest and never-ending bliss, poets have sung, authors have written, orators have discoursed and saints have dreamed, until the world resounds with praise to the God who, through his Son, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has made it accessible to all the faithful and true of earth.

Running through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, there is a continuous reference to the final abode of the righteous. From Enoch to Jacob at Bethel, from Bethel to the translation of Elijah, and again from Elijah to the ascension of the Master, and to the New Jerusalem, which John saw coming down from God, out of heaven, we have one reference after another to the "land of pure delight where saints immortal reign." We need not pause to discuss the location, or the probable features of heaven. We know it to be a reality, and that the God, who made the vast universe, with the unnumbered stars, has also provided a dwelling place for his people. Jesus at one time comforted his disciples by saying: "In my Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2).

Paul had clear conceptions of heaven. He tells us that one time in his life he was caught up into the third heaven, the paradise of God, whether in the body, or out of the body, he could not tell, but he knew that he was there, and heard things that he was not permitted to relate. (II Cor. 12:2-4). After this experience he could well say: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in

the heavens." (II Cor. 5:1). Heaven was not a theory with him. It was not even a matter of faith. It was more, for it was a matter of actual knowledge and experience. Hence he could consistently say, "We know." Not only so, but he could, with equal confidence, look forward to the time of his reward. Of this he speaks, after he had fought the good fight, and kept the faith, and was nearing the end of his course: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (II Tim. 4:8).

No finer picture of the home of the righteous was ever shown than that seen by John and described in Rev. 21. He "saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride for her husband." He tells of the jasper walls, the pearly gates and the gold-paved streets. This is not only a picture of the church in her renovated state, but a most vivid representation of the glory, charm and beauty of heaven itself.

A home in heaven, and life eternal: this is the reward of the righteous. This has been the dream of the faithful of every age and clime. Like Paul, they died in the faith, knowing that a crown of life and a "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" awaits them. To all such Jesus has said: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 25:34). Then, speaking of the joy and comfort of the blessed, he says: "They shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God." (Luke 13:29). In another place (Matt. 8:11) we are told that the saved shall "sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven." It will not be the mere joy of sitting down with the righteous of all ages, but it will also be a matter of future recognition. Those who are permitted to associate with Abraham and others in the paradise of God, will soon learn to know them. They will know Paul, and all the apostles, along with Moses and Elijah. The two latter were recognized while in their glorified state on the Mount of Transfiguration, and of course will be recognized in heaven by the redeemed. And if all of this is true, — and it certainly is, — then friends shall know each other when they meet in the final kingdom.

In view of what is in reservation for the redeemed, heaven and eternal life are not only worth striving for, but are of far more value than all the wealth and honors of earth. Well has it been said, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (I Cor. 2:9).

"My heav'nly home is bright and fair,
Nor pain nor death can enter there;
It's glitt'ring tow'rs the sun outshine,
That heav'nly mansion shall be mine."

Editor's Note: This concludes our selections from The New Testament Doctrines by Elder J. H. Moore. Hopefully they have been helpful to each reader.

NEWS ITEMS

CORRECTIONS

There are two corrections needing to be made in the Ministerial List in February 1, 1991 Bible Monitor. Bro. Rudy Shaffer and Bro. Michael Wray should be listed as Elders.

NOTICE

The Writing Clerk of General Conference needs to have all business for 1991 General Conference by April 15, 1991.

Bro. Fred Pifer
1734 240th St.
Adel, IA 50003
515-993-3187

GENERAL CONFERENCE FINANCIAL REPORTS

All general board treasurers will close their books on March 31, 1991. Please prepare the financial reports and have them audited by the General Conference Auditors. All properly signed reports may then be presented to the Writing Clerk of Standing Committee for its approval and be accepted as business for 1991 General Conference.

Elder Harley Flory
Writing Clerk-Standing
Committee

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

We, the Dallas Center congregation, invite you to come and worship with us at our Spring Lovefeast services. The Lord willing, they will be Easter weekend, March 30 and 31. Services begin at 10:45 Saturday morning with the Lovefeast service that evening. Pray for us.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation is looking forward to a one week Revival Meeting, Lord willing, starting Sunday morning, April 14 through Sunday evening, April 21, 1991. Bro. Leonard Wertz from Quinter, Kansas, will be our evangelist. We welcome you to pray with us for God's will to be done through these meetings and to come and worship the Lord with us.

Sister Grace Reed, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

We extend a hearty welcome to visitors at any time and encourage your coming to share with us when you can. Spring is a time to consider new beginnings and remember the RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, which gives us new life and hope for each day.

Fourth District Meeting is scheduled for Easter week-end at the Pleasant Home Congregation in Modesto. The first service will be on Friday evening at 7:30. The District Business Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, March 30. The Lovefeast will be held on Saturday evening. There will be special services on Sunday.

Please come if you can, or remember us in your prayers. Life is uncertain; only God's great faithfulness is a sure and unchanging basis for the peace of our hearts. May He bless you each day!

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans to have a revival March 22-31 with Communion services the 30th. Our speaker will be Bro. Robert Carpenter. Come and worship with us.

Sis. Eileen Broadwater

A TRIP TO CONFERENCE

Anyone who may desire to be a part of an Amtrak group traveling to and from 1991 General Conference in California, the Lord willing, please contact Harley Flory, 27505 Flory Rd. R. #4, Defiance, OH 43512 or call 419-497-3953 for details.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WEE LITTLE LAMBS

Eileen P. Burford

When I was just a little lamb,
As wee as I could be;
I used to climb on Mother's lap,
While she would sing to me.

Yes, tear drops fell from Mother's eyes,
I heard her pray for me,
That I would not the Lord refuse,
Who died on Calvary.

She sang of Jesus on the cross,
And how He died for all;
Then when I looked in Mother's eyes,
I saw the tear drops fall.

The years have passed and God has blessed,
Happy in Christ I am;
I pray that God will save the souls
Of my wee little lambs.

Selected by Sister Meriam Pletcher

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER

It seems ironic that the day made famous by the death of Jesus would be called, "Good". Yet, without that event there would never be any good that any of us could expect in our lives or beyond. The "good" of Good Friday is found in the results of that day not in the sinister deed that the day commemorates. There would not have been any good to have come out of Good Friday if there had not been an Easter morning to follow.

The "good" of Good Friday was the fact that Jesus was not only willing but able to die as the Passover Lamb, the substitute offering for the sins of each human, past, present and future. Jesus felt the very human dread of going through the terrible cruelty that awaited Him beyond Gethsemane, but He submitted to His Father's will. After all, this had been the Father's original purpose in sending Him to Earth.

The obedience of Jesus reminds us of one of His parables (Matt. 21:28-32). He told of a father with two sons. When he asked the elder son to do a certain task for him, the son refused but later went and did as requested. When the father approached the younger son asking him to do that task, the son gladly and enthusiastically promised that he would go and do it. Alas, he never did anything toward accomplishing that job. Jesus made the point that though one might hesitate to do what needed to be done, but yet did it, that was far better, than to promise to do it and to leave it undone. As the Elder Son, He may not have wanted to go through with His Father's plan, but as the obedient son He did. We more nearly resemble the younger son who though promising obedience never do what has been promised. We should be thankful the Elder Son

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did do the deed that we were neither willing nor able to do. We could never have lived lives so perfect and pure that we would be adjudged to be sinless, and we were never very willing to even try it.

No matter how willing we might be in a moment of Spiritual euphoria, to want to settle other people's sin accounts, we just are not able. Though we might be able to influence others through word or deed to make the right choice, it remains that we cannot give any sacrifice that will be able to cleanse other people's souls of their sins. Sins are individually committed and they must be individually taken care of. Jesus is the only One who can provide for the cleansing of people's sins. No matter how good a person may be or try to be, he can never be perfect. Jesus lived a sinless life among men while here. The death He suffered on Calvary was not for any sin or crime that He had committed. The thieves on either side of Him were there because they had been caught and sentenced as criminals. They were receiving their just punishment. He deserved no such penalty, but was there as the sinless sacrifice for all who could never make themselves good enough to deserve eternal life. That included all who were alive then; all who have lived since and all who live today. Jesus was not only willing to pay that penalty but He was able.

The penalty was paid on Calvary. Was that all there was to salvation? No! The penalty was paid but was it good enough, was it acceptable to God? Yes! The proof of its acceptability was the resurrection on Easter morning. When the visitors to the tomb found it empty, it meant that God had accepted the price that had been paid by Jesus. If the body had been found there that morning, his death would have been like every other death. It would have been so final. But because He lived it meant that all who would accept His sacrifice would also be able to live.

His resurrection meant that the grave no longer had to be the final destiny of men, now there was a life beyond. Jesus had overcome death, hell and the grave, now, all who would accept Him as their Saviour could also overcome these enemies, which were so final and overwhelming.

As individuals we have failed to live the perfect life that God would have us to live. Therefore as individuals we have to clear our record, but we have no way of doing that ourselves. We can only do that by accepting the work that Jesus has done on Calvary by admitting to God, ourselves and others that we are indeed sinners and unable to help ourselves. We need to feel a great sorrow for those sins that have separated us from the perfect God of Heaven, who so much desires to have fellowship with us but can't because our sins. We must outwardly show that feeling and need by being baptized by triune immersion for the remission of sins. This will

show a death, burial and resurrection that corresponds to the experience of Jesus.

Let this Good Friday and Easter be a time of identification with the One who is able to bring cleansing, forgiveness and a new life to you.

THE TOMB IS VOID

Jerusalem, historically, is the seat of Christianity. It has experienced wars and destruction many times. God's only begotten Son was born near Jerusalem, in Bethlehem. Many of Christ's labors, teachings and miracles took place in and near Jerusalem. In this area, He was arrested, falsely accused, sentenced to death, crucified, buried in a borrowed tomb and rose again the third day.

Following the timely and prophesied event that took place, on "The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him." John 20:1-2. **THE TOMB IS VOID!**

The angels of Heaven declared to those who first came to the tomb, "He is not here, He is risen." A number of appearances after His resurrection authenticates Bible prophecy and the fact that He was seen of above five thousand should remove all doubt, leaving no room for the skeptic.

Jesus Christ died, actually died and was buried. Jesus Christ arose from the dead and He actually came to life again.

Jesus of Nazareth was the son of man and the Son of God. He was sent by His Father in Heaven to pay the redemptive price for our sins. He was buried, but now He is risen. The tomb is void and He is now at the right hand of the Father, interceding in our every behalf.

Christ's resurrection defies doubt. The four gospel writers concur on the resurrection, each adding their personal impression without discord or contradiction.

Our risen Lord supplies the pardon, the love, the hope of Eternal Life and the joys of Heaven throughout an endless eternity.

That is what "THE TOMB IS VOID" means to me.

My risen Lord, I feel thy strong protection

I see thee stand among the graves today,

I am the way, the life, the resurrection

I hear thee say.

And all the burdens I have carried sadly
Grow light as blossoms on an April day,
My cross becomes a staff
As I journey heavenward this day.

Jesus was crucified on the old rugged cross. He arose from the Tomb. **THE TOMB IS VOID.**

We are experiencing in our day, a false religion advocated by many modern ministers. They humanize Christ and God. They compromise sin. Many modern pulpits come equipped with a soft pedal. Church followers are suffering from spiritual diabetes... too much sugar. There is being produced today a generation of spiritual dwarfs, not imbued with the power of the living God. Along with spiritual diabetes, they also are suffering with spiritual anemia, lacking faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today many attractions are bidding for our allegiances. Possessions definitely are loud, positions bid high, popularity appeals to many. Regardless of what may **HOLD YOUR INTEREST**, please, thoughtfully and seriously consider the fact that God, through Christ offers the only soul security to be obtained anywhere.

It required Christ to give up His place in Heaven, to come to this sin-cursed earth, to teach men the plan of salvation, to stand through false trials, to be falsely condemned, to be brutally crucified on the cross, to shed His blood for the redemption of man's sins, to be buried in a borrowed tomb, to overcome hell and the grave, to rise again the third day, all these events fulfilled prophecy to every jot and tittle.

This it took on His part before it was announced, "He is not here. He is risen." and before it could be truthfully stated, "**THE TOMB IS VOID.**"

The empty tomb is evidence that we have a risen and very much alive Saviour. John 14:19, "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more, but ye shall see me, because I **LIVE**, ye shall live also."

In this verse is a two-fold promise. The **WORLD**, that is the unbeliever, will not see Jesus. The true follower **WILL SEE JESUS**. And since Jesus is alive and "Because I live, ye shall live, also."

It pays big dividends to serve Jesus and take Him at His Word.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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NOW WILL I RISE, SAITH THE LORD

Isaiah 33:8-10, "The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man. The earth mourneth and languisheth:

Lebanon is ashamed and hewn down: Sharon is like a wilderness; and Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits. Now will I rise, saith the Lord; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself."

Isaiah 33:17, "Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off."

John 2:19-21, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body."

Although we do not make any claim of Scriptural knowledge that would allow us to state dogmatically that the portion of Scripture taken from the book of Isaiah refers to the resurrection of our Lord, we, personally, see a lesson in this area for us.

At the time of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ the "highways" of truth were lying in waste. The Jews of that day had, for the most part, departed from the teachings of the Old Testament and replaced them with rules and regulations of men, which were ignored by those who were supposed to be setting an example of leadership. The followers of the Lord Jesus Christ were far from being established in the faith and it would take the receiving of the Holy Spirit along with much struggle before they would become the true Church.

The covenant God made with Israel had been broken many years before. A looking for a political messiah had just about completely obliterated the need for a spiritual renewal. Truly the occupants of earth were mourning and languishing. We believe there was sorrow in many hearts when they would hear of how God worked miracles for the children of Israel and felt His seeming silence now. We believe there was a deep desire in many hearts for a true spiritual renewal. Amidst all the pomp and ceremony there probably was much shame as individuals recognized the real wilderness of religion without substance that was theirs. God's "fruits" had been shaken off and the "tree of Israel" was now bare.

At this time God the Son said, "Now will I rise." His resurrection would rebuild the wasted highway. It would restore God's covenant with Israel. (Of course, God never broke the covenant in the first place.) It would replace sorrow with joy and bring the spiritual renewal that was so badly needed. God offered Israel "new fruits" to fill the bare branches if they would only yield. As we read in Romans 11:23 "And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again."

Sadly, a large portion of Israel rejected this offer of God. As we read in the New Testament only a small group accepted the only begotten Son of God. They had the privilege of seeing the King in

His beauty. They saw the risen Christ in all His glory. They became a part of that glorious kingdom which is a foretaste of Heaven, "the land that is very far off."

The Lord Jesus Christ told the Jews of His day, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." As Isaiah prophesied, He was exalted as His prediction became fact. His resurrection made it possible for us to have a small part in the glory of the Lord.

Today, the highways once again lie in waste. The earthly church, as a whole, has rejected her risen Lord. She has broken the covenant that God has established with her. She has replaced the commandments of God with the commandments of men. She despises "the cities of God," the little groups that desire to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in all His fulness. She "regardeth no man" and shows no compassion for the spiritual needs of mankind, while she foolishly holds out a worthless social gospel as a replacement. She is ashamed to be separate from the world and to take a strong stand for the Truth of Scripture. Truly, the standards and witness of the forefathers of the Faith are hewn down. She is like a wilderness. She has endless theologies and ecclesiastical pronouncements but no living faith. She has shaken off her fruits of righteousness and replaced them with bare branches of human wisdom.

Once again our Lord will "rise." No, not from a grave, but He will return in all His Glory to judge the world. Then all will see the King in His beauty. But not all will behold the land that is very far off. Some will spend eternity in a place of torment. What will your end be?

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WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE HOME?

Who is the head of our home? If this question was raised before all the Brethren, I'm sure we'd all rush to say "Jesus Christ." We need to look much deeper into our lives and really establish who is the "Head."

God's Word has outlined the headship order for us. It is our responsibility to study His Word and then apply it to our lives. Once we have understood that order, to fully receive the blessing, we need to institute it in our lives. I Cor. 11:3, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." Eph. 1:22, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over

all the things to the church." I don't believe we need to bring out more scripture to get our point across.

You might wonder at the title, but if we were to observe the homes across America today, the title is easily understood. The homes today seem to evolve around the wants and wishes of the children rather than the wants and wishes of Jesus. A classic example of this is letting the child make all of his or her own decisions. This can only lead to confusion. We have seen the occasion when the parents were actually afraid to do something because the child might not like it. The children get wise to this, and soon learn to control the situation by tantrums or constant begging. I'm sure we have all been witness to this. When a home is like this, the virtues of respect and appreciation soon die away. There is not the peacefulness or contentment that God had in mind for each home. God desires order, respect, appreciation, love, training; the list could go on and on. The homes of today should be more structured, with the parents in the proper place, and Christ at the center. Decision making should be done by the parents, with Christ's wants and wishes in mind. The children need to be made aware that the home evolves around Christ. I'm not saying that the child shouldn't make any decisions, but let's narrow the options somewhat and thereby structure their decision-making. If a child is brought up making all their own plans and decisions without some limits and structure, later in life their decisions may not be wise or edifying. Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Our lives on this earth are to glorify the Father and not bring shame to Him. When people look on, do they see an orderly, Christ-centered home, or do they see our children dictating every move we make? I hope and pray that we all as Brothers and Sisters in Christ are examples to the world. People need to see a difference not only in our lives, but the way our family is as a unit. Would you want to walk through a store with Jesus on one side, and your child begging constantly for this and that on the other?

Proverbs 23:13-14, "Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." That, my dear ones, is the goal we all have. We want our little ones in Heaven with us. But they need correction. They need help making decisions. They need to know what respect is, and what "yes" and "no" means. God has given these precious ones to us, now we as stewards need to raise them up. It's work, hard work. Never ending, it seems. But God has given them to us (on loan), and He's gracious enough to give us wisdom to raise them. Let's pray for them. Let's be examples to our children. Let's show them who is

the head of our home. We do not claim to be an authority on this subject, but do hope to create home study in God's Word on this very subject. May God add His blessings.

Brother David J. Snyder
Quinter, KS

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Shem, Blessed of God

We read in Genesis 9:26, "Blessed be the Lord God of Shem." Of Noah's sons, we find Shem received the spiritual blessing. In fact, when you read this text, you see that it is the Lord who would be blessed in Shem. Isn't that an awesome thought... blessing God with our lives? Our eternal God is blessed when His covenant people continue in a close personal relationship with Him. And even as it was with Shem, our descendants are blessed for our obedience.

The Shemites became a great people. They make up the peoples of the Middle East including the Jews and Arabs. God was to establish a personal covenant with the line of Shem. Descendants were to be listed in the Table of Nations in Genesis 10. From Genesis through the Book of Revelation, the biblical account deals almost exclusively with Shem's descendants.

We are introduced in Genesis 11 to Abraham, a Shemite. It was through God's special covenant with Abraham that the basis for our salvation was set up.

God keeps His promises! In Genesis 3, the promise was given that the ultimate deliverance from Satan would come through the seed of a woman. In Genesis 9, we see the promise narrowed down to the family of Abraham. The promise of the Messiah is further narrowed to Judah, one of Abraham's great grandsons in Genesis 49 and years after that, David, of the tribe of Judah, would be important in Christ's lineage. Ultimate fulfillment of these and other prophecies culminate in Jesus of Nazareth... the descendant of David, Judah, Abraham and Shem.

Noah's prophecy was far-reaching and provided a great link in the unbroken chain of redemption centering in the Messiah... the hope of Israel and the Savior of the whole world.

How marvelous and wonderful was the plan of God for our redemption. Every person who will trust Him as Savior and dedicate their life to Him will experience the essence of His promise... the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life.

Just as the spiritual blessing was given to Shem... so it is given to you. Won't you reach out and claim your blessing?

Brother Len Wertz

GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP

Where two or three, with sweet accord,
Obedient to their sovereign Lord,
Meet to recount his acts of grace,
And offer solemn prayer and praise;

"There," says the Saviour, "Will I be,
Amid this little company;
To them unveil my smiling face,
And shed my glories round the place."

We meet at thy command, dear Lord;
Relying on thy faithful word,
Now send thy Spirit from above,
Now fill our hearts with heavenly love.

- S. Stennett

In order to properly worship God we must follow the scriptures. The poem above gives an almost perfect picture of what our worship should be like, and how we can best glorify our Lord. Worship is for those who serve God. Worship requires obedience. Those who worship Christ must worship Him in spirit and in truth. When two or three or twenty or thirty, in unity, gather to worship, there will He be in the midst of them. Then, having gathered, we offer solemn prayer and praise to God, and hear our brethren recount His acts of grace.

We rely on Him to follow His Spirit to come down and fill us. Much preparation goes into each service, from the preachers and exhorters to the teachers and superintendents, and from each one who studies his lesson and kneels to pray for the service. But we must remember that ALL IS IN VAIN UNLESS THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLY ONE COMES DOWN. We know that if we are faithful to the Word, and prepare our hearts and minds by prayer and study, and beseech God for the blessings that we need, then God will be faithful and shed His glories around the place.

In keeping our worship simple we maintain the proper emphasis of prayer and study and seeking God's face. Have musical instruments, red carpets, brass ornaments and stained glass improved upon the simplicity of worship of the early church? We say, "no." So, hold the line, Brethren, and keep the world out of the church. Take the pictures down, and get rid of all the frivolous additions that have crept in because of those non-spiritual members with more money than salvation. The old oaken buckets we use to wash feet can last a few more years. Avoid the

temptation to buy shiny new things. Look to the Lord. What would He have us to do? May He help us.

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THE SAINT IN MY CHURCH

She sits with head bowed low, and none would think to
interrupt her with a greeting.
Her Bible lies beside her in the pew,
where once her husband sat,
But he has gone to Glory now.
The hymn is called and she stands,
her feeble limbs somehow strengthened,
and she sings with the same exuberance as the youngest,
for the song is in her heart.
As the portion of the Word is read,
she opens the worn volume at her side
but does not look upon its pages,
for she knows the passage well
and recites it now from memory,
a little ahead of the rest of us.
She has not much in worldly goods,
but when the plate is passed
she puts in all that her purse contains
and worries not that it is empty.
Some say they've caught her dozing
as the Pastor preaches on,
but I think she is communing with her Lord,
anxious for the day when she can
see him face to face.
While others come to be entertained,
she has come to worship.
As she rises to leave, she casts me a smile,
and I know from looking at her
that she has met with God.
Oh, that my faith could be as strong, my heart as true,
as that dear saint of God in my church.

- Joan Dower Kosmachuk
Selected by Sister Ruby Smootz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1931

"WEEDS"

B. F. Masterson

Lesson: Mark 4:3-21.

"And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. (Mark 4:7-8).

I want to write about weeds. I think that is the meaning of the word "thorns." The wild vegetation springing up and choking the corn. The gist of the lesson lies in three little words, "In", "down", and "up". It must get up or it cannot mature. The first fell by the wayside. It did not get in. The second got in but not down, no depth of earth, stony ground. The third fell among thorns. It got in and it got down but not up. The weeds sprang up and choked it. It lived for some time, but at last it turned yellow and came to naught. Now, of these three conditions, the third is the worst by far in every way.

The wayside is not to be blamed if it does not grow corn; you do not expect wheat to grow on the street, neither on stony places. But the weeds grow in good rich soil and that is where the husbandman expects the largest yield of fruit, but why don't it? Because of the weeds. Now, this waste is in the field set apart to corn growing. I am responsible for the condition of the ground, hence I am responsible for the outcome. It seems to me that this represents the neglect professor, his heart, the field, set apart to grow corn.

To illustrate: Here are two farmers, they plow and harrow and carefully plant; in both fields the process is the same; so the fruitful and unfruitful professors. The Holy Ghost brings deep conviction to both. Each makes a surrender to Christ. Each receives the word into his heart, the seed got in and it got down; the failure is not in beginning of the religious life. What, then, is the trouble? Ah! look at these two corn fields: the one is clean and thrifty, the other full of weeds and the corn yellow, ready to die; the one spent days in it to keep the weeds down, the other left it take care of itself. It tells the story, the weeds grew and choked the corn, and when the Lord of the harvest comes to his field fenced about and plowed and planted and yet no returns, so the negligent professor never yielding the Master any returns for all the outlay of love and grace, and the talents that were bestowed on him, the Lord of the harvest says, "Here I should have a good crop, this field should have at least produced thirty-fold and I find nothing but weeds". The servant

says, "No fault of mine; I did not plant them". How true. The earth is full of the seeds of weeds. It is a spontaneous growth, so is the flesh full of the seeds of sin, like weeds they grow voluntarily and need to be destroyed by means of cultivation. These weeds may not be actual offenses, such as what people would call sins.

I came to a certain town on a Saturday afternoon. The streets were deserted, no business. I entered a drug store to inquire when the burial was to take place. The druggist wanted to know what I was driving at. I said, "Don't you know that your town is dead?" He said, "You are right; they all went to the ball game." A religious community. I suppose this would come in the line of the text as explained by Christ in the 19th verse, the lusts of other things, or as in Luke 8:14, the pleasures of this life are the thorns that choked the word. Where a thing has gotten to be a fad like the ball games and are boosting for their favorite teams on the grounds the way it is done, it cannot but choke the Word and it becometh unfruitful." Notwithstanding many professed Christians say they see no wrong in these things. Surely inordinate desires for these things will choke the Word, and it becometh unfruitful. Being all these things are prevalent amongst us, the opportunity is all the greater for doing good. The light shines the brightest when it is the darkest. We may talk of our peculiarities and circumstances and difficulties, that is no excuse for not being fruitful.

If you and I are in the church and have received the good seed, nothing in the world will excuse our not bringing forth much fruit. "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit." (John 15:8)

Another excuse is that some of these games come in the line of gymnastics. That is what Paul is alluding to in Timothy 4:7-8. "Exercise thyself rather unto godliness, for bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things." ("To understand this expression it is necessary to know that the apostle alludes here to the gymnastics exercised among the Greeks."—Clarke.)

If Paul was here now, I wonder if he would not say that there is too much lusting after these games and rebuke the elders of the churches for encouraging them.

NEW BIRTH

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine;..." John 15:4.

We must abide in Christ. Jesus says, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." If we abide in Christ we can bring forth fruit. Without His help we can do nothing.

If we abide in Him we have peace. In the world we live in today, we have many tribulations, but when we are born again we are new creatures. All the old things have passed away. Now we are ready to start working for Jesus and preparing for our home in Heaven. Now we have the Holy Spirit to help. Now when things seem to go wrong we can go to Him in prayer and ask for help and He will supply our every need. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." James 4:8. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any many enter in, he shall be saved,..." John 10:9.

If we are in Christ we will watch our lips and not speak a lot of idle words, for after we come to Christ we have to answer for what we say. Let each of us be on our guard and be very careful how we live in this world, and always strive to live a good life here so when Christ calls we are ready for that home He has prepared for us.

Sister E. M. Alltus

OBITUARY

OLIVE STEWART

Olive M. Stewart, daughter of Albert and Ella (Smith) Webb, was born April 23, 1905 in Bradner, Ohio. She passed away January 23, 1991 in the Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Fostoria, Ohio. She had been there for just a few days and passed away at the age of 85 years and 9 months.

Olive worked for eleven years at RCA in Findlay, Ohio. Retiring in 1966, prior to that, she and her husband owned and operated a grocery store in West Milgrove.

April 19, 1927, she was united in marriage to John B. Stewart in Bowling Green, Ohio. He preceded her in death in 1987.

Surviving are her son Beryl of Wayne, Ohio, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Also surviving are a sister Maude Heisey of Fostoria, Ohio and a brother George Webb of Sacramento, California and a host of relatives and friends. Olive was a dear person and will be greatly missed.

Services were conducted by Elders Edward Johnson and Charles Leatherman and Bro. Fred Johnson. Burial was in the Riverview Cemetery at West Milgrove, Ohio.

GETTING OLD

You tell me I am getting old;
I tell you that's not so!
The "house" I live in is worn out —
And that, of course, I know,

It's been in use a long, long while;
It's weathered many a gale;
I'm really not surprised you think
It's getting somewhat frail.

The color's changing on the roof,
The window's getting dim,
The wall's a bit transparent
And is looking rather thin,
The foundation's not so steady,
Weaker than it used to be;
My "house" is getting shaky,
But my "house" isn't me!

A few short years can't make me old —
I feel I'm in my youth;
Eternity lies just ahead,
And life, and joy, and truth.
I'm going to live forever then;
Life will go on — it's grand!
You tell me that I'm getting old?
You just don't understand!

The dweller in my little "house"
Is young and bright and free —
Just starting on a life to last
Throughout eternity.
You only view the outside shell,
That's all that most folk see.
You tell me I am getting old?
You've mixed my "house" with me!

Anonymous

NEWS ITEM

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation invites you to their Spring Meetings April 24 through 28. Bro. Ronald Marks from Hart, Michigan will be the speaker. Services on Saturday the 27th will be at 2 p.m. and the Lovefeast Service at 7 p.m.

We cordially invite you to come worship with us!

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1991

April 7 - Kept by the Power of God - I Peter 1:1-16.

1. Who are "the elect" in verse 2?
2. What does our "being saved" and "being kept" have in common? verses 3 and 5.

April 14 - Redeemed - Born Again - I Peter 1:17-25.

1. What did our salvation cost heaven?
2. What does it cost us?

April 21 - Newborn Babes - The Chief Cornerstone - I Peter 2:1-8.

1. What did Christ compare our feeding of newborn babes to? John 21:15.
2. How does the Person and work of Christ relate to the title of "Chief Cornerstone"?

April 28 - A Chosen Generation - I Peter 2:9-19.

1. Why are we a chosen generation? verse 9.
2. List our duties as a "peculiar people". verses 9-19.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1991

April 7 - The Meaning of EASTER - Mark 16:1-20.

1. What does the resurrection mean to us? Romans 6:4.
2. What was the "power of the resurrection" Paul desired in Philippians 3:10?

April 14 - Passport to Life - Prov. 12:15-28, Ezek. 33:14-19, Luke 10:25-28.

1. How encompassing is Luke 10:27?
2. What is your passport to eternal life?

April 21 - Christian's Race - I Cor. 9:24-27, Phil. 3:13-14, Heb. 12:1-2, II Tim. 4:7-8.

1. How is the Christian life comparable to a race?
2. What weights do we need to lay aside?

April 28 - Sins of Youth - Job 13:26, Ps. 25:1-22, Jer. 3:23-25.

1. Why is it very important to deal with the sins of our youth?
2. How can we be cleansed of youthful sin? Ps. 119:9.

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HE CANNOT READ HIS EPITAPH

If with pleasure you are viewing any work a man is doing,
If you like him or you love him tell him now;
Don't withhold your approbation till the pastor makes oration,
And he lies with snowy lilies o'er his brow.
For no matter how you shout it he won't really care about it,
He won't know how many tear-drops you have shed;
If you think some praise is due him, now's the time to give it to him,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

More than fame and more than money is the comment kind
and sunny,
And the hearty, warm approval of a friend.
For it gives to life a savor, and it makes you stronger, braver,
And it gives you heart and spirit to the end.
If he earns your praise — bestow it; if you like him let him know it;
Let the words of true encouragement be said.
Do not wait till life is over and he's underneath the clover,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

- Author unknown
Selected by Sister Esther Roedel

STANDING

We are known as those who either stand for something or those who fall for anything. We will stand for the truths of God's Word or we will believe and follow the counterfeit ways of the enemy of our souls. Our enemy is cunning so he often makes his ways appear as if they were the ways of righteousness. The result of following these ways is destruction. A life that was promising in the beginning can be ruined because of a desire to follow ways that are pleasing to the world. It is well for us to consider which way we are interested in following. What are we willing to stand for? Or have we become so spineless that we will not stand for anything that is unpopular? There are many popular religious beliefs that are based only on the philosophies of men rather than on the Bible. These philosophies are a front for the Devil's philosophy.

The devil is always seeking to get into our lives and plant the seed of doubt and disobedience. If he can get just a little corner of our lives, he can soon control even more and eventually take over and totally ruin our lives as Christian lights. His methods are not scrupulous. What else would we expect from the father of lies? He does not warn us what is in store for us if we follow his ways. He does not want the young person whom he is tempting to begin smoking to realize what he may have to suffer in future years if he takes up the habit. The Christian may in a similar way be tricked into doing his enemy's bidding. He does not realize what lies ahead if he follows the pleasant pathway that is set before him. Satan does not put warning labels on his temptations like those now required on cigarettes and other dangerous items.

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The Christian has to be wary of Satan's tactics. When he is sure that it is Satan's scheme then he must take a stand against it. Even if at first he did not realize what he was getting into, when he does, he needs to repent of the past error of his way and be determined to go in the right way from there on. Because our enemy often appears as an "angel of light" it is easy for even those who have been Christians a long time to be fooled and drawn into the devil's schemes.

His ways may seem to be totally harmless but once entangled in them, it becomes very difficult to get out. What appeared to be so good and even Spiritual may soon prove to be detrimental to Spiritual health. This may include a change in dress standards, in worship standards, leisure time usage and in acceptance of non-Biblical doctrines. The changes may be small at first and may promise to be Spiritually beneficial, but before long those little changes may turn into big ones. The supposed benefits may soon turn into detriments. What looked so fair at first may prove to be a snare. Often there is a price that must be paid in order to escape.

The best way to escape the devil's snare is to never get into it, but few are able to avoid every pitfall along the way. We are all human, which makes each of us vulnerable to Satan's wiles. We have certain passions and desires which often cause us a lot of problems. We give in with very little resistance because we do not desire to take a stand against them. God has promised that He will not allow the Christian to be tempted above what he is able to resist. Whatever temptation comes our way we will be able to overcome if we want to bad enough. He has provided a way of escape for us. That way may be different in different situations and it may vary from person to person. That escape could be by fleeing from the place of sin, it may be avoiding the person or persons that Satan uses to tempt us, or it may be the necessity of taking a stand, even if it is unpopular. Whatever way is the appropriate way in that instance, God will use it to help us win the victory.

Taking a stand requires that we have on the armour especially designed for the Christian. We can stand with determination if we stand with God's help. Taking a stand will itself help us to stand. Just the effort made in taking the stand will give us fresh courage to continue on.

When we take our stand we may be pleasantly surprised to find others who will stand with us, either against a personal sin or a sinful condition surrounding us. So our stand could be more important than just what it accomplishes in our own life. It may prove to be important in the lives of others. Let us each take our stand against Satan and his pernicious ways in our individual lives. If we do not take a stand we will be easy prey for Satan to lead us into Spiritual destruction.

Will you take your stand for right and righteousness?

GOD'S PROMISES ARE SURE

Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Matthew 6:8b, "for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

God and Christ are our ever present help, "Just when we need them most." Christ teaches us that we should never be anxious for tomorrow.

We reckon time as a measure of duration. Time ends for us but not for God. Throughout our lifetime we are dependent on God. Concerning future promises, we read in II Peter 1:4, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises." In harmony with the song, we can "Stand on the Promises of God" definitely knowing that His promises never fail. In II Peter 3:9, we read, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness."

Solomon, the wise man, at the dedication of the Temple gave testimony about God being willing and wholly able to fulfill any promises made to man. I Kings 8:56, "Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant."

The source of all these promises is GOD. He is the GUARANTOR and knows no failures. That is a very assuring and comforting thought.

Daniel in the lion's den, the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, the Children of Israel wandering in the wilderness forty years and many other Bible characters could attest to whether God fulfills His promises or not.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. It requires that we have FAITH in God and His Word to truly enjoy the fulfillment of His promises.

God's ability to supply is like having a checking account at the bank. Prayer is the check we use to draw from it. If we ask in faith believing, we shall receive. The gold in the vaults of Uncle Sam is as but the dust of the earth compared to the riches of God. Christ certifies our request to God, who fills the need, by making allotments from His overflowing warehouse.

God uses various ways to fulfill His promises. A report which is on records and attested as true concerns a woman, a Christian, who was traveling to America by ship. She had a very rare disease which required a great portion of her diet to be oranges. She had taken with her a sufficient supply to care for her needs in a normal crossing. Because the ship was nearly a week over due, because of

storms on the high seas, she depleted her supply of oranges. Lacking the needed oranges she became very ill. The ship's doctor was sent for. He was well aware of what was wrong. The ship had a few oranges which helped her out for a day or two. Her condition worsened and the ship's Chaplain was sent for. He prayed to God in Heaven that somehow help would be obtained for this very ill lady. In the middle of the ocean there was no human way oranges could be obtained. They prayed to a living God who was able to provide. That same day the Captain received an S.O.S. from another ship needing assistance. Being required by maritime law to change course to help the disabled ship, they conformed to the law. They pulled alongside the troubled ship, fastened a tow cable and prepared to tow it to New York City. The disabled ship was laden with fruit from Africa, with tons of oranges on board. God used various means in this instance, to answer the Chaplain's prayers. **HE MET THE CHALLENGE.** He knows no limit to His power.

This true happening is no more miraculous than quieting the storm tossed Sea of Galilee, freeing the three Hebrew children and many other so called miracles.

Always remember and have sufficient faith to fully accept and believe in God's promises. They are reliable and all shall be fulfilled.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Japheth and the TEMPORAL BLESSING

Japheth was to receive the temporal blessing from Noah.... and thus from God as a result of his respect for his father. When his brother, Ham, uncovered the nakedness of his father, Japheth and his brother, Shem, honored him by covering him that he should be modest again. This blessing would extend far beyond this time to generations that are a part of our day.

In Genesis 9:27, we read, "God shall enlarge Japheth and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. This was the last of Noah's prophecies concerning his descendants. Japheth's sons included Gomer, Javan and Meshech. Of course these names are very familiar to biblical readers as they describe the tribes which settled in areas of Europe and Russia. They are listed in the prophecies since they will play an important role in the end time happenings.

Japheth's descendants are the Indo-European people... and the Bible says that they would be "enlarged." This probably refers

mostly to temporal and territorial enlargement. It is prophetic that the world's exploration and much of its creative culture has come from Japheth's descendants.

We see Noah predicting that he would dwell in the tents of Shem. This term... "dwell in the tents" is not a military term but we need to see it from the Middle Eastern context. To dwell in someone's tent meant that you would share their belongings. When we were in Israel, we noted the hospitality of the Bedouins. We stopped our tour bus at one encampment and we were immediately invited to share in the things that were theirs. We were to have a cup of Bedouin coffee and enjoy their hospitality. This brings meaning to the phrase "dwell in his tent."

One day the Gentile peoples were to dwell in the tents of the Shemites. They would partake of Shem's unique privilege... the spiritual promise of a relationship with God.

For many thousands of years, men wondered and speculated on how this might be fulfilled. It was not until the appearance of Shem's greatest Son that the prophecy began to take shape. Jesus came to this earth that He might work with all people. He would extend beyond the realms of the Jews and bring in the flocks from the Gentile peoples if they would hear His voice. He was to unite all people under His banner... under one shepherd. And, of course, it was not until after Christ's resurrection, ascension and granting of the Holy Spirit that the tent door flew open and Japheth and his descendants could become a part of the eternal people of God. They were "grafted in" at that time. God's final sign was manifested through Peter when He illustrated to him that the Gentiles would receive the blessings equally with the Jews. The truth would be presented to all men in the plan of Jesus Christ. As a result, Cornelius, a Japhethite, came to dwell by faith in the tents of Shem.

With the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch, we see the descendants of Ham joining in. With the conversion of the Apostle Paul (Saul), we see the descendants of Shem coming to the Lord. And finally, in the person of Cornelius, we see the descendants of Japheth coming to the knowledge of the Savior.

God has a great plan for the redemption of mankind. Just as the historic people were a part of that plan, so you, too, fit into the perfect plan of God. You can have all of the blessings of God if you but claim the promise and submit yourself to His will for your life. The way has been made. History has documented it. You need but to accept it and implement it in your life.

Brother Len Wertz

THE ERROR OF REINCARNATION

Hebrews 9:27, "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement."

There was the time when the subject of reincarnation was limited to discussions concerning the Eastern religions and such far off places as Africa and India. However, with the rise, popularity and interest in the New Age Movement and the syncretism of other religions and nominal Christianity the subject has come closer to home. The greatest concern is that it questions the Word of God as well as denying many truths concerning God himself.

When a Brethren writer has the audacity to write the following, we believe there is great cause for concern. "... If we are free, if we have any power at all, then calling God almighty is inappropriate." "Awareness of God's limitation requires reconstruction in our theology. We will refrain from using the term "Almighty God." We will avoid escapist tendencies to say: "The future is in God's hands," or "God is in control." If God is not almighty then man becomes a "god" and when this is true we no longer need a Savior. This is one of the teachings that is included with the error of reincarnation. It is taught that each time a man (or woman) dies and is "reborn" as a new individual he or she usually moves closer to perfection. After many of these rebirths they finally become one with the cosmos or, as some teach, one with the supreme being. This, of course, is Satan's counterfeit for the New Birth through the blood of Jesus Christ. It also is in agreement with Satan's lie to mother Eve that we can become gods.

If the future is not in God's hands then man is in control. We do not have to fear the judgement of God because we can control our own destiny. There is no need for obedience to the Word of God because the Bible is "only the words of man." Theistic evolution and the error of reincarnation have much in common. Both teach that man is becoming better and better as time goes on. When man is judged by human standards this may appear to be true. But when we are judged in the light of God's Holy Word we find mankind in general is moving farther and farther from God's commands.

In the error of reincarnation there is no Heaven to gain or Hell to shun. Although some may take longer than others, most who follow this error teach that eventually everyone will find eternal bliss. This is very much like the teaching of universalism that is becoming popular in many Brethren circles. While some contend that Alexander Mack believed in universalism, the records show that he believed in an eternal burning Hell. It seems quite unlikely that the early Brethren would have conscientiously followed rigid standards if they thought that they would receive eternal life without it. Today

they would be labeled legalists. However, the laying away of their strict standards has led to such sacrilegious statements as the one we quoted. While it is not for us to judge who enters Heaven, one thing is certain. We will not be denied Heaven by doing more than we have to. But we may miss Heaven by doing less than we are required, contrary to popular teaching.

The Bible clearly teaches that it is appointed unto men ONCE to die. The fact that two men, Enoch and Elijah, did not die according to scripture speaks of the sovereignty of God, not error in His Word. Even the Lord Jesus Christ tasted death in human form. While there are a few scriptures that can be twisted to teach the error of reincarnation, this fact alone proves the fallacy of this teaching.

After death comes the judgement. The final judgement will take place after the second coming of Jesus Christ, another truth denied by the modernist. But if you die without receiving the forgiveness of sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ you will not have a second chance after the resurrection. In Revelation 20:11-15, we find what, some of us believe, is the final scene for all mankind before eternity. Whether this scene includes all of humanity or only those who are unsaved, as most of our conservative Brethren teach and preach, if a man is not found in the book of life he will be judged to spend eternity in the lake of fire. As has been so well said by an unknown author, "Only one life, will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last."

At this time those who were born again and washed in the blood of the Lamb, we believe symbolized by trine immersion baptism, will receive a glorified body. Scripture is silent about the type of body received by the unsaved. At this time we will "enter into a new body." It is not clear if this will be our old body glorified, as we believe, or a completely new body, as some others teach. Not reincarnation but glorification will bring us to the point that we will be like Christ. But we will never be "gods." We will honor and worship the Trinity throughout eternity. May we desire to live lives that will bring us to this glorious point in time. May we avoid such errors as reincarnation and other man made theories.

Brother James M. Hite
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GIVING

We are never truly living
As we should from day to day,
Till we find that we are giving
Very much of life away,

So that we are helping others
Find their way to God above,
Making of them Christian brothers,
Full of Godliness and love.

We should give them words of warning.
Words of comfort and of cheer,
Never scoffing, never scorning
As we meet them there and here,
Helping them to live far better
Than they otherwise would do;
For to God we are a debtor
As this life we journey through.

Giving of ourselves to others —
Time and talent, means and all —
Make us friends and make us brothers,
Whether we are great or small;
And it's this that makes us kingly,
And our lives a blessing great,
Helping men in mass and singly
To a higher better state.

God requires that we be giving
Best of what we have away,
For this is the art of living
That He plans for us each day;
And it makes us happy-hearted,
Noble, godly and sublime;
Then when life we have departed
We shall enter Heaven's clime.

But there'll be a mark behind us
Pointing up the heav'nly road,
Telling men that if they find us
They must reach the soul's abode,
Where the best of all ages
Live and dwell forever more —
Patriarchs, apostles, sages,
And our loved ones gone before.

- Selected by Sister Ruth M. Snyder

DO NOT GIVE UP

Luke 18:4b-5, "... Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."

A poor, weak, little widow came to a big, powerful judge one day so that he would help her out of a difficulty. He did not want to see her. He had more important things to do and could not be bothered by this woman, who to him was like a fly buzzing around his head. His business was with the important big-shots of this world, and she was a nothing. But she decided to have her way. She wanted justice done on her behalf and this was the man to do it. So she started to pester him. She brought her lunch and camped out on his doorstep. She bugged him until he gave up and took care of her. She harrassed him until he capitulated. In verse five the word "weary" comes from a Greek word meaning, to blacken the eye. She was wearing him out with her persistence, and her persistence paid off. If a black-hearted, atheist old judge is affected by this kind of treatment, how much the more will a kindly God who loves His people? This man was one of the most selfish we have record of, yet for whatever reason, he stopped what he was doing to come to her aid. Can God do no less for His people who love Him also?

We must mix faith with our prayers. We must believe God for the answers, but we must understand that our prayers must have something to do with it. Many do not spend a lot of time in prayer because they have the idea that God is totally responsible for what happens in this world. But the truth is that our prayers can affect Almighty God. He can, like the old judge, stop what He is doing and come to our aid. If we believe God can hear and answer prayers, then we must take time to ask in faith for the answers. The important thing in all this is to never give up. When George Mueller was a young man he prayed to God that two of his friends would be saved. He prayed for them every day for over forty years. They were saved, but both shortly before George died. He never gave up, and neither must we. That old widow knew that there was some persistence needed on her part, so she prepared accordingly.

I am reminded of the prayer meeting that was called one time because there had been no rain for several months. Only one little old lady brought an umbrella. She was prepared.

How can we prepare ourselves for prayer? By believing that what we ask for in faith is going to be done, and by never giving up. What about our loved ones who are unsaved? What about the healing of our weak bodies so we can better do God's work? Let us pray with persistence. If we do not get what we want, we must not blame God, but rather our own lack of prayer. We have not because we ask not. Let us prepare our hearts and let us persistently pray and beseech God for the things that we need, and then let us thank God for the answer to our prayers.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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WHAT THEN, FRIENDS, WHAT THEN?

When the great plants of our towns and our cities
Have turned out their last finished product of work;
When our merchants have sold their last yard of silk
And dismissed their last clerk from his desk;
When our banks have raked in their last greedy dollar
And paid their last annual dividend;
When the judge of the earth cries, — "Close up for the night,"
And asks for a balance sheet, —
What then, friends, what then?

When the choir has sung its last song and anthem, —
And the preacher has made his last prayer;
When the people have heard their last sermon
And the sound has died out on the air;
When the Bible lies closed on the altar
And the pews are all empty of men,
When each one stands facing his record —
And the Great Book is opened —
What then, friends, what then?

When the actors have played their last drama,
And the mimic has made his last fun;
When the movie has flashed its last picture,
And the billboards displayed their last run;
When the crowds seeking pleasure have all vanished,
And gone out in the darkness toward hell —
When the trumpet of ages is sounded,
And we stand up before Him —
What then, friends, what then?

When the farmer has plowed his last field on the hillside,
And sowed his last bushel of grain;
When the last crop-of-grass is all harvested
And the corn husked and all in the crib;
When the plow and the harrow and the tractor
Are all put away for the year,
And the last load of wood from the forest
Is all cut and piled away in the shed;
When we see the abomination of desolation,
And the great tribulation drawing near;
When God's Holy Spirit gives warning,
And the angels announce Jesus' coming —
What then, friends, what then?

When the dance halls have garnered their last victim for lust,
And the beer gardens have sold their last bottle of rum;
When the whiteslavers have gathered their last harvest of souls,
And the cigarette trust doped your last boy and girl;
When the last Christian martyr has been burned at the stake,
And paid the supreme price for his faith with his blood;
When the last invitation to accept Christ has been given,
And you hear His voice saying — "Lost, lost, eternally lost!"
What then, friends, what then?

When God's trumpet sounds through the valleys
And echoes o'er mountain and glen,
When the last summer sun is fast sinking
And the far golden west all aglow;
When you reflect o'er life's primrose pathway
And marvel how Satan has beguiled you,
When the last cigarette-smoking father and mother
Have sent their only offspring to hell,
When Christ in the clouds calls the faithful
And they sweep through the skies into glory —
When then, friends, what then?

When the last bugler's call echoes into the silence,
And the long marching columns come to "halt";
When the captain repeats his last orders,
And they've captured the last fort and hill;
When the flag has been hauled down from the masthead,
And the wounded far afield all "checked" in;
When a world that rejected its Saviour,
Is asked for a reason —
What then, friends, oh, what then?

- Joseph E. Morrison
Selected

OUR IDEALS — NO. 3

Under this head we have as, "Our Watchword, Go into all the world and preach the gospel." This, at once, suggests the idea of missionary activities under the auspices or direction of the church; and this means the church is essentially a missionary enterprise or society. And this is in harmony with the Bible idea of the church and its Founder.

Jesus Christ was the first great missionary sent into this sinful world. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son

that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

This was God's greatest gift to mankind, and suggests the estimate God placed upon this world, in that he would give his only Son to redeem and save a world of sinners. And at the same time shows the contrast of God's great love and the littleness of the most ardent love of which mankind is capable. "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet, peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die; but God commendeth his love to us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." And so we are told, "Ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are his." The blood of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, was the price God paid and Jesus gave for the world of ungodly sinners. Wonderful price! Was it worth it? Did God pay too much? Did Christ give too much? We are told, "he gave his life a ransom for all."

God did not only buy the world at this enormous price, and Jesus gave himself for the world, but all this for one soul, for me. Could we but see Jesus made this perilous missionary journey into this world for me! Methinks it would move us to love and adoration hitherto unknown to us here. We should then more fully realize what he meant when he said, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what will he give in exchange for his soul? With the world in one balance, one soul in the other, the world is seen mounting as the one soul quickly descends, indicating the relative weight or value of the two in God's estimation. Now we place the blood of Christ on one side and one soul on the other and behold the equilibrium, — a perfect balance or value in God's sight. For it was not the ninety and nine, but the one strayed sheep for which he braved the midnight storm and left his blood-stained footprints on the bleak mountainside. Wonderful love! Matchless price! for me.

Go into all the world with this wonderful message, this wonderful love, this wonderful sacrifice, this wonderful price.

For "the goodness of God leadeth men to repentance," and if this goodness, this love will not melt hard and stony hearts and "work repentance unto salvation not to be repented of," what will? Then may we sing,

"Wondrous it seemeth to me,
Jesus so gracious should be;
Mercy revealing comfort and healing,
Saving a sinner like me."

Paul became a great missionary, being sent forth by the missionary church at Antioch at the command of the Spirit, who said "separate unto me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

This church at Antioch, was itself founded by missionary endeavor, as were all the churches in apostolic times, and from that time until now, the work goes on, and will continue until the Founder of this great missionary undertaking shall return to see how well as stewards we have carried on, and how many souls have appropriated this great love, how many have been cleansed from all sin by the blood, and to reward all his faithful servants with eternal life for which God gave him, and for whom he came to save, by paying the price.

The Dunkard Brethren church is from its conception a missionary church. This is shown by the fact that provision was made for missionary activities at the organization in the appointment of a Board of Evangelism and Organization a part of whose work is to foster missionary activities as they may be able with means in hand to do. This is as it should be for no church can hope to make itself felt as a power for good in the world without missionary effort.

So then, a part of our mission in this sinful world is to see to it that the Gospel is published far and near as we may be able to do. For our Master's "Go ye" is as binding today as when first given. And if true to our ideals, we shall see that every reasonable effort is made to get our claims to Biblical Christianity fully set before the people, not only in the local communities where we have well established churches but also in remote communities where the Gospel is not preached at all, or where it is not preached in its fullness.

But why all this? Why the "Go ye"? Because it is God's way to save folks. But cannot God save folks without the Gospel? Morally, no; physically, yes. Physically he will not. Morally, he cannot, because he has not planned to save in any other way then through the Gospel. Hence we are told, "it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" and an unbeliever cannot be saved in any way. The "Go ye", means God's children for God has no way of bringing the Gospel message to the people only through living ministry backed up by a living church. For "how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?" And God must do the sending, for "he that is sent of God speaks the word of God." Sent by others, he may not.

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview, Missouri Congregation plans to have our spring Lovefeast, April 27-28, 1991, the Lord willing. We invite you to come and enjoy these services with us.

We are rejoicing that Bro. Tim and Sis. Terry Scofield were received into our church family here.

Sister Miriam Reed, Cor.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

The Pine Ridge Mission Point near Collins, Mississippi, plans, the Lord willing, to hold its first Lovefeast. There will be services on May 4 and 5, 1991. If you can, come and join us for a weekend of Christian fellowship.

Please remember this little group as we try to show the Light of the World to this part of God's moral vineyard.

Anyone planning to come please call either 601-785-4461 or 601-582-7730.

Brother John Meyers

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation is looking forward to our Lovefeast services Sunday, May 5, 1991. We invite you to come and worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

NOTICE

I use this means to thank the many over the Brotherhood who remembered me with cards, gifts, letters and telephone calls for my 87th birthday. God bless each of you.

Elder Paul R. Myers

THANK YOU

Though I feel unworthy of all the love, care and concern that the dear Brothers and Sisters have shown in remembering me with get well cards and the nearly 100 Birthday cards.

I say thank you from the depth of my heart. God has been so good.

In Christian love,
Brother Paul Blocher

WANTED

I would like to secure a copy of J. H. Moore's "The New Testament Doctrines."

Sylvia Wolf
19200 Cherokee Road
Tuolumne, CA 95379

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIV

APRIL 15, 1991

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A GOOD SHEPHERD

The Good Shepherd will lead.

And He'll feed His "sheep,"

Or He finds they scatter

And fall, if they're weak.

In these troublesome times,

It may be too late

To bring some "sheep" back

To that narrow gate.

Satan is always near,

Tempting us to wrong,

Trying to blind us,

Make us weak, not strong.

But God is much stronger

Than Satan or man.

He will show us how

To live by His plan.

We're our brother's keeper —

Never forget this.

If we do, it may be

Heaven's gate we'll miss.

Sister Irene Stout

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Wabash, IN 46992

PAUL AND TIMOTHY

Each person is unique. People differ physically and emotionally. They have individual interests and desires. This uniqueness includes Christians as well as all other people. Although Christians have been born again through the one plan of salvation delivered to men by God, they still are different, for God has given to each certain talents and abilities. Although they share a Saviour and One Way to Eternity, they each have to do what he has been called to do and what he is prepared to do. This not only affects the laymembers of the Church but the leaders as well.

The Bible establishes the various officials needed in the Church. Without leaders, each member would do as he pleased and much effort would be wasted for there would not be any set direction for the work to follow. Not only might the effort be wasted but it might lead into sin. The witness of the Church would be harmed if even a few within the Church were determined to go in a way that was not ordained of God. For the work to be accomplished, not only effectively, but also in a consistent and holy manner, there needs to be leaders who are concerned about the lives of those who are a part of the Church. It is not only for the good of the Church as a whole but for the good of each individual member. If the leaders are concerned about each member, they are going to be concerned about the activities of each member, for they would not want that member to be engaged in activities that would be Spiritually harmful.

Despite the common misunderstanding of the purpose of those set in leadership positions, they are placed in those positions not to be dictators or cruel leaders, they are set there to be the servants of

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the Church. Their service is in their concern and care for each member. This care and service may be expressed in ways that might not at first seem to be a logical expression of service. Some leaders harm their work through their attitudes as they forget that they really are servants not lords of the Church. If they need an example or pattern to follow, they need only look to Jesus. Although He certainly was greater and more powerful than any Church leader today, He was very careful to serve not Himself but the Church. His audiences were often those who were thought to be social outcasts, but He lifted them up, often above the Spiritually dead religious leaders of the Jews.

Just as all people differ in their physical and emotional makeup, so do leaders. This might be illustrated by looking at the Apostle Paul and his faithful assistant Timothy. They served the same Lord and preached the same Gospel, but they were very different. Not only was Paul a Hebrew of the Hebrews but he was a scholar and had standing in the highest circles of the Jewish religious society. Timothy's father was a Gentile, so Timothy was somewhat suspect in the eyes of the Jewish leaders. These were superficial differences. The greater differences were in their approach to life and their work. Paul was confident and a central figure wherever he went. People either loved or hated Paul. He stirred them up by his preaching and the controversies that he was involved in. Timothy was more timid. He was a little hesitant to take a stand. He did not have a physical presence that grabbed the attention of the people like Paul.

There were many times when Paul had to encourage Timothy to be more active and to take the necessary stand. We find that though Timothy did need Paul's encouragement and sometimes rather pointed reminders, he still became a very valuable assistant to Paul. Timothy became a very important leader in the Church. He did not attain the rank of Paul, but he was able to accomplish the work that he was given to do.

Leaders today also are different and each has a place and a work to do. Sometimes this difference may cause criticism of the one who is not as forceful as another. It also may lead to Jealousy. It must be remembered that God has called each to serve in the way and place where he is best suited.

God knows that with the variety of people who make up the Church, that there needs to be a variety of leaders. All do not respond to the same type of preaching and all do not respond to the same style of leadership. Some leaders are more thoughtful. Some are more studious. Some are more dynamic. Some are more public oriented. But all are called to be servants.

Paul and Timothy were different but each had a place of service. The Church today has leaders who each have a unique place of service.

TOUCH NOT THE ARK

II Samuel 6:6-7, "And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God."

Hebrews 9:3-4, "And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant."

The account found in II Samuel concerning the incident of Uzzah and the ark of the covenant may leave us with many unanswered questions. But two things remain clear in this account. First is that we cannot overstep the boundaries God has set for us and get away with it. The second is that God reigns sovereign over mankind.

The Scripture taken from the book of Hebrews lists three things found in the ark of the covenant, the golden pot that had manna, Aaron's rod that budded and the tables of the covenant. We see in these three articles a picture of three things that we should be very careful of how we handle. This we see as the divine will of God.

First we find the golden pot that had manna. Manna was the "bread" sent from Heaven to feed the Israelites in the wilderness. Psalms 78:25 tells us "Man did eat angels' food..." In John 6 we find the feeding of the five thousand. Following this Jesus left them but the multitude followed Him. In His dialogue with them in this second encounter the following conversation took place. "Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus told them that it was not Moses that gave them that bread from heaven to eat, but God the Father. He then said, "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." He further explained, "... I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth in me shall never thirst." The response of the Jews to this was, "... Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven." In response to this Jesus again affirms that he is the bread of life.

To refuse to believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son is to refuse the manna God has sent to mankind. We dare not touch the ark and remove this spiritual truth. Anyone that does so will receive spiritual death. Do we look to the Lord Jesus Christ not only for our eternal salvation, which is, of course the most important, but also for our "daily food." Or do we look to our own natural strength and wisdom along with our worldly occupation? Of course God expects us to

work for a living if we are physically able. But most of us fret and worry the minute our money supply is not as great as we think it should be. Some of us have several thousand dollars in bank yet we worry that this will not be enough. We are not opposed to having a good savings account and an ample checking account, but that should not be where our security lies!

The second article found in the ark of the covenant is Aaron's rod that budded. The account of this happening is found in Numbers 17. In summary, the children of Israel were murmuring against Moses. So God commanded Moses to take twelve rods and write a name on each rod. The Scripture says, "And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness." The next verse tells us, "And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds."

God took a dead object and brought forth life from it. It contained buds, blossoms, and even yielded almonds. God can do the same for an individual. The Bible tells us that we are dead in trespasses and sins. But God can bring forth life in a spiritually dead individual. They will have buds of assurance, blossoms of joy, and the fruit of the Spirit. To deny a salvation experience for believers is to touch the ark. Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." To offer salvation any other way is to touch the ark.

The last article we find in the ark of the covenant is the tables of the covenant. This was the ten commandments God gave to Moses. We do not believe Christians are saved by following the ten commandments, but we cannot enter heaven without obedience to the commands of our Lord. John 15:10 tells us, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;..." To offer eternal salvation without the need of obedience is to touch the ark.

As we said, we see the ark of the covenant as the divine will of God. We cannot spurn the divine will of God if we want the blessing of God in our individual lives or the church. May we seek His will and desire to follow it. God has put the "ark" in the hands of the leadership. We dare not despise their authority. If the leadership misuses their authority they will answer to God. The priest that went into the holy of holies with known sin in his life also received the death sentence!

May we enjoy the blessings of "the ark" but also be willing to receive the warning therein.

Brother James M. Hite

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"New Age and Education"

One of the most fearful systems of this age is the New Age Movement. This occultic teaching of "humand potential" is being promoted throughout the public school system of our day with the blessings of the educational associations. New Age "religion" is very much a part of public education and it is being supported by our tax dollars. Techniques used include "guided imagery", meditation, "channeling", "magic circles", altered states of consciousness, and occultic games. In addition, our youth are taught to attain a "higher state of consciousness" which is outside the realm of Christian awareness and is involved with the occult. I am repulsed when I hear Christians say, "well, that is only happening in the big city schools." I received a call from a concerned Christian parent in a small rural town in Iowa just a couple of weeks ago and this person's child was experiencing a teacher using New Age techniques on the students at that time. We need to be alert to this great invasion of our children's minds via the humanistic, New Age-occultic movement. This movement is "global" and we cannot isolate ourselves from it as long as we continue in the system. Be alert to the need to teach Biblical principles thoroughly at home and instill values and teachings from God's Word that will be able to help them fight off the "human potential" movement.

I was told by an Administrator in a small town recently that he was excited that their school was going to soon be hooked into a worldwide system of information and learning. This, of course, is prophetic as we see the development of the "New World Order." Again, this term is strictly New Age and Humanistic. We hear it a lot lately... even from the President of the United States and the leadership of the Soviet Union. Hear me... the "New World Order" is against everything that the average American and God's people stand for and believe in. We must be praying for the teaching against the "New World Order" and not promoting it. It ultimately leads to a great loss of freedom and is directly related to a One World Government.

Our government has the right today to totally control us in times of "emergency." Eleven executive orders were signed into law by President Kennedy that allows: "take over of all media, take over of all electric power and fuel, take over of all food resources and farms, take over of all transportation, take over of all health and welfare, registration of all citizens, drafting citizens into workforces, take over of all housing, take over of railroads and waterways, and allocating Emergency Planning." Are these part of a "New World Order"?

Students, beware if your teachers tell you "that you are in control of your life. You have the potential within yourself to be as a god. Just meditate on your inward strength and soon you will be able to heal your body, your psychological self, your environment," and so forth. We no longer have the right to pray in our public schools nor is Bible reading allowed. The Ten Commandments cannot be posted although any other humanistic religion can be exercised. Humanist New Age religion is actually promoted! It is being blatantly taught in school systems across the world. Is this a part of a "New World Order?"

Guided imagery ideas are instilled early in elementary school. New Age principles are rapidly replacing God's principles for living. And, even today, as we work to keep our children free from these dangerous teachings, we hear the cry that "Christian Fundamentalists are seeking censorship!" If we understand that any major change in our society affects our Church, we certainly must be very concerned and must continue to question public education and the media which is making serious inroads into the conservative Christian life.

If our system teaches that the Ten Commandments are outmoded and irrelevant in today's society, how are we to correct this teaching? If divorce and remarriage is also "okay" in today's world... will we also accept that as satisfactory Christian behavior? Humanistic and New Age curricula in the schools are very much a part of a "conditioning" process that will be very difficult to remove from the young, moldable minds of children.

How concerned are we? If we are to be victorious Christians, we will "overcome the world." We will not allow ourselves to compromise with the world or its systems. We will accept martyrdom rather than fall into sin and the destruction of our minds for Christ. The development of the carnal mind is totally against the mind of God and whether it remains moldable to the Word of God or to the New Age philosophies of the 90's will determine our eternal destiny.

We must be cautious. Satan would desire to have our souls. He would desire that our minds become carnal and that holiness would be lost. But remember, the carnal mind is enmity against Christ and His holiness. Study to shew yourselves approved unto God. It is the only "reasonable" and safe thing to do in this age. Investigate and be thoroughly aware what is being practiced and taught in today's education system.

Brother Len Wertz

STANDING ON THE LORD'S SIDE

Psalms 94:16, "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?" One application could be made, "Who is on the Lord's side?"

At one of our General Conferences several years back, a certain paper was before the delegates which was not too controversial, but had supporters for and against it. It came to a vote. One of the delegates who supported the paper was in the public address booth, rapping on the window to get the attention of the tellers. The booth in which he was standing was high above the auditorium floor, he being visible to much of the audience. Regardless of who saw him vote, he took his stand for that which he felt was the Lord's will. His vote was cast with the majority, which passed the paper.

The principle is the basis of this article.

There is hardly a day in each of our lives, but what we meet up with a situation in which we must take a stand for the right.

As Christians, we are watchmen. First, for our own good and second, for the good of others. Isaiah 52:8, "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice;..." A watchman's duties are to WATCH and if he sees danger, to give warning. That is the duty of every individual declaring the Word of God. A watchman's time would be wasted if, in seeing the need, he fails to give the warning. Failing to teach the people the fundamental doctrine of God's Word, or lightly glossing over it WILL NOT lead people to salvation, but can put them in jeopardy, in danger of losing their soul.

A watchman on duty for many years at a certain railroad crossing, and very reliable, through negligence, was responsible for a serious wreck at his crossing, involving several deaths. Survivors sued the railroad for negligence. At the trial, lawyers for the railroad made consistent efforts to prove the watchman innocent. Lawyers for the other side made just as consistent efforts to prove the watchman guilty. On the witness stand, the watchman was seriously questioned.

"On this particular date, were you on duty?"

"Yes," was his reply.

"Did you hear the train coming?"

"Yes."

"Did you wave your lantern?"

"Yes."

The railroad won the case. After the trial was over, the watchman's boss thanked the watchman for his testimony. The watchman said to his boss, "I didn't tell them the lantern was not lit."

To stand on the Lord's side, we must have our light lit. Jesus said, "YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." May we not be guilty, as Christ's witness of carrying an unlit lantern.

A believer's watchfulness is comparable to that of a soldier or guard. A guard, when he sees an enemy approaching, alone, cannot challenge the enemy, but should alert the forces needed to withstand the enemy.

We often have sung the hymn, "May the Lord depend on you?" Are we willing to acknowledge or affirm our position on the Lord's side?

On one occasion Peter denied His Lord and seriously regretted it.

In Exodus 32:26 we read, "Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him."

Are we willing to stand for the right, even in the midst of odds? Ephesians 6:13, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." It is harder today, and fewer individuals are willing to come out one hundred percent on the Lord's side, and let it be publicly known just where they stand.

We should be of the same mind as the writer who wrote, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation."

In closing, I refer to Mark 8:38, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Brother Paul R. Myers
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WHERE ARE THE WEEPERS?

Matthew 2:18, "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."

We show our love best to one another when that love is under trial. We show each other what we are made of when our relationships become pressurized. Jesus told us to love one another. This love transcends petty, even major, differences. We need to consider how we should deal with those who were once members with us and have gone to other groups. Do we feel sad when someone leaves, for any and all reasons? Or are we glad when they depart? Should we not agonize in prayer for those that leave us? Should we not spend much time in prayer for them? We were in a group seven and one half years and were made to leave because of doctrinal differences and only one person came to us to talk about it and beg us to come back. Where are the weepers? Where are those who see value and virtue in the souls of men? Where are those who weep and agonize in prayer to God for souls in trouble?

In the scripture we quoted above Rachel was weeping for her children. Where are our children? Are they safely in the fold of God? Or are they wandering? Are we weeping for their souls? Has our past behaviour caused them to lose their way? Has petty differences

caused many to lose their way? The greatest emotion in the world is love. For God so loved the world that He gave His son. If we really love our children and our fellow Christians, it will be of life-death importance that we have fellowship with them.

But you say, "So many people have come and gone, not staying long, and we are suspicious of new faces." It is not wrong to be cautious. It is, I feel a good attribute we received from our German and Swiss forebears, but we must love them nonetheless. Our heart and our hands must go to them in love. We must, as Jesus did, love the souls of men. He wept over His people. Can we do no less? Let us not sacrifice our children to this world. Rather, let us show them the love of Jesus as something to be desired above gold. If the Brethren had the right attitude toward the world and the things of the world, our children, I believe, would not be thirsting after these things.

Our ancestors were frugal people, they worked hard and saved their money. Many of them became rich, and suddenly were faced with the dilemma of riches. Many, even today, are in a "strait betwixt two," and their lack of conviction regarding the world has filtered down to our children. Eli allowed his sons to go unrestrained, and they defiled themselves. To allow children to go unrestrained gives quiet sanction to their activities. If we "let them go," we, in our heart, are in favor of what they are doing. We cannot afford to allow, even for a second, anyone to think that we are in favor of worldly practices. We must draw the line and keep it drawn. The church today will be recognized by its stance toward the world. On the contrary: we must love them, and pray for them, and weep for them. "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children." Some have departed, some are still with us. Where are the weepers?

Brother Lynn H. Miller

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1931

THAT BROOD OF EVILS

J. F. Britton

"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." (Prov. 6:16-19.)

We think, and talk, about certain sins as the biggest evil, or the "besetting sin", but who will assume to say which is the worse or the biggest sin in that "Brood of Evils." The writer is wondering if it would be transcending Biblical propriety to classify that "Brood of Evils", as the fountain or incubator, from which there is an egress that flows into the hearts and lives of men and women, and corrupts and defiles them, that they become a menace to be dreaded and avoided. Hence, it should be borne in mind that there is enough of virus in each one of those evils under consideration to infect and contaminate (if not restrained), not only an individual, but a whole church, with a disastrous malady.

It should be noted that there are SEVEN evils mentioned in that dark catalog, and since the term seven denotes completion, it is logical and stands to reason that that "Brood of Evils" formulates the whole SATANIC SYSTEM, which spells DISCORD and RUIN, not only to the individual, but also to the church.

No wonder that Paul warned against that Brood of Evildoers, thus, "The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the later times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." (I Tim. 4:1-2). "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (II Tim. 3:13) And thus we see that that Brood of Evil emissaries are still on the job, trying to defeat the church, "which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (I Tim. 3:15).

Jesus also warns and urges against the Brood of Evildoers, saying, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matt. 7:15). And, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away discipline after them." (Acts 20:30).

Alas, alas, and oh, how sad, there is reason to believe we have that Brood of Evil-doers in the church today, sowing the seed of discord, and perpetrating their erroneous ideas and doctrines. No wonder that, as Jesus, looking through His prophetic eyes, exclaimed: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders: insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before, wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt. 24:24-27).

No wonder that the New Testament has a ban on the hypocritical heart, "For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh." (Matt. 12:34) Therefore, "Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you." (Eph. 4:31). The

Apostle Paul, being inspired, and directed by the Holy Spirit, wrote, saying, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:19-21). The reader should note the emphatic and irretrievable edict: "SHALL NOT."

We talk about and wonder why the church doesn't grow and prosper. Is it not traceable to the fact that some of that "Brood of Evils" are injecting their heretical virus into the church, thereby disqualifying her to co-operate with the Holy Spirit in her divine mission?

Think of the burning and thrilling message sent to the Laodicean Church: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:15-17). Thus we see that that "Brood of Evils" had about incapacitated that early church, and that she could no longer function in her greatest and highest interest.

It follows, then, that the people of God should be vigilant and guard against those modern emissaries, that they are not enticed, decoyed, and deceived. Oh, God, give thy people the wisdom of discrimination, that they may discern between truth and error. Amen.

JONAH

Jonah did not seem to know God as a God of mercy. So God started to teach him. In Jonah 4, He asked him some questions. If God would ask him some questions, I am sure He would ask us some questions, too. These questions clearly show us the condition of our hearts.

In verse 4, God asked Jonah, "Doest thou well to be angry?" God was pleased, but Jonah was angry. God is always right. Why are we not able to see it? We read in Romans 3:4, "... let God be true, but every man a liar;..." But Jonah did not think that way. Jonah did not confess his sins. He became angry and left the city. He waited outside the city to see if God still would destroy the city. Here we see the mistake Jonah made. He quit preaching, and waited to see what God would do. Though people repented and turned to God he was not willing to follow the way the Lord wanted him to.

We find this today, but it is in our own life. We get up and go somewhere else. Today we are called and we should serve the Lord willingly. Christ has done a lot for those who are carrying the Gospel to this dying world. Christ died that all the people could be saved. The harvest is ripe, but the laborers are few. People today are not willing to carry the gospel, the message of salvation, to the lost. I think God tried to help Jonah.

It is the same today. God was only trying to show mercy. Do we ever stop to think how great God's mercy is? If we love the Lord we will be willing to take up the cross and follow Him.

Sister E. M. Alltus

A GOOD RULE TO FOLLOW

A story is told of a man who once asked a king if he could tell him how to avoid temptation. The king told the man to take a vessel brimful of oil and carry it through the streets of the city without spilling one drop.

"If one drop is spilled," said the king, "your head shall be cut off." And he ordered the executioners with drawn swords to walk behind the man to carry out his orders.

There happened to be a fair going on in town and the streets were crowded with people. However, the man was very careful, and he returned to the king without having spilled one drop of the oil. Then the king asked, "Did you see anyone while you were walking the streets?"

"No," said the man, "I was thinking of the oil; I noticed nothing else."

"Then," said the king, "you have learned how to avoid temptation. Fix your mind on God as you fixed it on the oil. You will not then be tempted to sin."

Selected by Sis. Ruth Snyder

OBITUARY

LELA BEAM

Sister Lela Vonedea Beam, daughter of Arthur and Lydia (Smoker) Clingenpeel was born March 26, 1904 in Howard County, Indiana. After a lengthy illness she exchanged time for eternity March 6, 1991 at the age of 86 years, 11 months and 8 days.

May 18, 1930 she married Harley C. Lorenz. He was called home November 7, 1939. Two daughters survive, Kathleen Knights of Oakford, Indiana and Delores of Plevna, Indiana, also five grandchildren and great grandchildren.

November 21, 1953 she married Jacob Lorenz. He departed this life January 6, 1959. Four step-sons preceded her in death. Earl, Ralph, Donald and Paul. Surviving are Ross of Amboy, Indiana, Ernest of Peru, Indiana, Kenneth and Carl of Greentown, Indiana. Also two step-daughters, Esther Bird of Converse, Indiana and Dorothy Lorenz of Greentown, Indiana.

November 8, 1961 she married Willard A. Beam. He preceded her in death April 23, 1990. Surviving are three step-sons, Leroy of Kokomo, Indiana, Maurice of Kirkwood, Missouri and Eldo of Flora, Indiana. Also two step-daughters, Elizabeth Emig of Knob Noster, Missouri and Eleanor Garcia of Chula Vista, California.

Also surviving are many step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A brother Len Clingenpeel also survives. Two brothers, Adrian and Ermon preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held March 10 at Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church. Elder Harley Flory opened the service, Elder Bob Carpenter brought the message and Elder Harley Rush was in charge of graveside service.

Sister Lela was a charter member at Plevna and in earlier years served as teacher, chorister and janitor. She was a good Christian mother and is greatly missed.

We as a family thank all who have shown her kindness through the years of her illness and those who have extended sympathy to us at this time. God bless you.

NEWS ITEMS

1991 GENERAL CONFERENCE

The 1991 General Conference will be held June 15 through 19 at Mission Springs Conference Center, Santa Cruz, California.

From Santa Cruz go 3½ miles north on Route 17 to Mt. Hermon Road (turn right at Big Basin sign and cross freeway, Route 17). Go 1½ miles on Mt. Hermon Road. Turn right on Lockhart Gulch Road and go 1 mile to Mission Springs Conference Grounds. If you are traveling South on Route 17 from San Jose, turn right on Mt. Hermon Road and follow the above directions.

For those coming by bus, train or plane be sure to make your own arrangements with members or friends for pick-up when you arrive. If not call 408-335-9133. San Jose is the nearest airport and train depot.

All blankets, linens, towels, washcloths and soap will be furnished.

Please send your reservations as soon as possible, so we will have an idea of how many to expect.

Brother Henry Walker
12413 Delaware Rd.
Hickman CA 95323
209-874-2832

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Life is filled with disappointments, sorrows and times of joy. The Englewood Congregation has just experienced the latter as we accepted into our midst Brother Philip and Sister Mary Ellen Gish. They have four lovely children.

The Lord further increased our joy at our council when Brother Philip was installed into the Ministry and Brother Don Hostetler into the office of Deacon.

Our constant prayers go with them that the Church might bear more fruit.

Sister Ruth Spicher, Cor.

NOTICE

We here at Bethel Dunkard Brethren School are in need of teachers for the 91-92 school term. Anyone interested please contact school or call Verling Wolfe, 717-933-4246.

Pray the Lord will direct and fill our need. Thank you!

THANK YOU

I want to thank all you dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ for all you have done for me during my illness. Most of all for prayers, cards, gifts and so forth. I can only thank you but may the Lord bless you.

Sister Pat Johnson

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all who sent cards, letters and gifts for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you and God bless you.

Brother John and Sister Faye Carpenter

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1991

May 5 - Christ, Our Example - I Peter 2:20-25.

1. What was Christ's response to His offenders?
2. Are you willing to allow God to bring just dues to your offenders?

May 12 - MOTHER'S DAY - Luke 2:25-52.

1. What motherly qualities do you see in Mary?
2. What is the highest goal of a Godly mother?

May 19 - Husbands and Wives - I Peter 3:1-9.

1. What quality in wives is of greatest value to God? verse 4.
2. Husbands, are you "dwelling with your wife according to knowledge"?

May 26 - Suffering for Righteousness - I Peter 3:10-22.

1. What formula is given "to love life and see good days"?
2. How do we keep a good conscience?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1991

May 5 - Accountability - Luke 16:19-31, Ezek. 18:20, Romans 14:12.

1. List those you are accountable to now.
2. Are you ready to give account to God?

May 12 - Mothers - Ruth 1:1-22.

1. What qualities do you appreciate in your mother?
2. When did you last tell your mother "thanks" for blessing your life?

May 19 - The Parable of Wheat and Tares - Matthew 13:24-43.

1. What do "tares" represent today?
2. Are you true wheat or phony tares?

May 26 - The Temptation of Christ - Luke 4:1-19.

1. How did Christ deal with temptation?
2. How have you prepared to face temptation?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIV

MAY 1, 1991

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CHRISTIAN HOME AND FAMILY

Lord of life and King of glory,
Who didst deign a child to be,
Cradled on a mother's bosom,
Throned upon a mother's knee:
For the children Thou hast given
We must answer unto Thee.

Since the day the blessed mother
Thee, the world's Redeemer, bore,
Thou hast crowned us with an honor
Women never knew before;
And that we may bear it meetly,
We must seek Thine aid the more.

Grant us, then, pure hearts and patient,
That in all we do or say
Little ones our deeds may copy
And be never led astray;
Little feet our steps may follow
In a safe and narrow way.

- Christian Burke

MOTHERS

While Jesus was on the cross, He exhibited the tenderest care for His mother. Although He was in extreme physical pain from the tortures of scourging and crucifixion, He continued to be concerned for Mary's welfare by assigning her to the care of Apostle John. He was suffering great agony from the weight of mankind's sins being laid upon Him as the Sacrificial Lamb, but He still cared for the wellbeing of the woman who became the willing hand-maiden of the Lord and bore Him. His example is worthy of every child's emulation.

Mary was worthy of the care Jesus showed that day. She was not perfect, for she was human. She made her mistakes. But she had been willing to have her life used by God. Even with all she had been told by Gabriel, she did not always understand what was happening at times during Jesus' life and ministry. She had faced the possibility of public censure when she carried the Babe in her womb, for she was espoused to Joseph at the time and he could have made her an object of public scorn. She was willing to take the risk for she was committed to serving her God. She continued to care for Jesus not only during his childhood years, but she followed Him during His ministry. Being a mother she was prominently present at His crucifixion. A mother during the sad times as well as the joyous is always present for her children's encouragement.

Many sentimental tributes have been written about mothers. The picture is of a perfect person always knowing what and how to do. This picture of perfection may actually cause some mothers to become depressed because they too are not perfect like the

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mothers honored in these tributes. A mother does not deserve to be forced to feel depressed because she is not an alabaster saint. She needs to give of her time and talents in helping her children, but she primarily needs to be there. They need to know that she is available, which is more important than her talents and psychology. The life of being an available mother might seem to be boring and uninteresting. Perhaps a career seems more exciting, but being available for the children can have more longlasting results. A mother's part in her children's lives can influence the choices they will make which will have eternal consequences.

The perfect mother does not exist. Many who have such a reputation may be lacking in some facet of their lives so they in the end do not have as great an influence on their children as the mother who realizes her weakness and seeks God's help in her daily efforts. The role that a mother allows God to have in her efforts will determine how successful she really is, no matter what the neighbors or relatives think.

Mothers are associated with love, in a way that fathers aren't. Because fathers are associated with discipline in the home, they may not be perceived by the child to be as loving as mother. This is only an allusion for father's discipline is also a display of love in a different way. Mother shows love in a more tender and caring way that impresses the child with the feeling of love. Some mothers might be tempted to show love by giving in to the child's demands. She may elevate the child to the position of ruler of the household, thinking that by pleasing the child, she is showing love. But that course will lead to failure.

The best way for a mother to show her love for her family is to show them her love for the father. When parents are unabashedly in love in the home they are setting a good example for the children to follow in their lives. This display of love does not need to be a great public display of romance, but rather a respect that each parent has for the other. If one parent constantly puts down the other and is critical, the children will be taught to be critical, instead of loving. This relationship between the husband and wife also sets a spiritual tone for the home. The husband and wife are a picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church. As they each fulfill their roles in the relationship, they are teaching the children the relationship between Christ and the Church. This should give them a reverence for the Church and the marriage relationship. They should respect their parents for trying to carry out this relationship within their lives. Mothers have a major responsibility in setting this relationship before their children.

Mothers are often the child's introduction to God. For through mothers God is able to display His love and concern for all. It has often been said that God could not be everywhere, taking care of

every child, so He made mothers to help Him out. Each mother has a large responsibility, but she has a God who is equal to the task. May each mother fulfill her God given role as mother and wife.

LORD, GUIDE OUR MOTHERS

Mothers, do you ever have a trying day? I do. I am thankful for my blessings each day but my, **WHAT A RESPONSIBILITY** we as mothers have in fulfilling the role of motherhood. It is a wonderful experience to bring babies into the world, but a harder, more trying mission to train and educate our children in the ways of the Lord.

I think back many times about when I was small and how Mother toiled and cared for us small folk. She had to correct us as she saw best while Father toiled in the fields. Where would we be if we didn't have Christian Mothers to diligently teach us right from wrong?

Mothers do get tired and weary of many interruptions, questions and duties of the day, but Mothers, if this is your lot, accept it joyfully, have strong determination and keep praising Our Maker who gave and entrusted the child into your care till He takes it away!

Jesus' presence can keep us singing and smiling even though at times tears overwhelm us. Tears are generally a part of a mother's make-up. There are tears of discouragement, weariness, disappointment, expression, overwhelming joy and gladness. Yes, tears can wash the windows of our soul to communicate the joy that comes only in the reaping.

In a past Monitor, Bro. Len Wertz spoke of spiritual weariness that can tempt us in our lives. We mothers have to make sure that our weariness doesn't lead to mental tiredness in our work for the Lord. I think of the song that says, "... don't forget to smell the flowers along the way." Make yourself available in whatever you have to do such as: helping to pick flowers, observing baby animals, looking at the moon or perhaps just holding those little hands and going on a walk. Behold the small children around you for they are looking to you for an example.

Sometimes we seem to get pressed in our duties and trials in life. Even if we think we cannot go one more step, we can be victorious servants of Jesus who giveth us the **VICTORY!** My mind goes back several years to when the Englewood Congregation was privileged to have Elder David Ebling in our midst. Bro. David's sermon was on "**VICTORY.**" He told the story about himself and Bro. Roscoe Reed meeting in Virginia at a C.P.S. Camp to have church services with those boys. His sermon at the camp was the same one he gave that morning. I hope I will never forget that sermon. Victory stands for:
V - victorious (be able to climb **OVER** each circumstance that comes your way)

I - initiative (taking the lead — being a leader for the right things)

- C - consecration (dedicate your life to the Lord!)
- T - truth (be truthful in all you do)
- O - organize (as a C.O., arrange your life in an orderly arrangement)
- R - righteousness (have good moral attributes as you serve CHRIST)
- Y - you (YOU are the one who has to answer for yourself in the great Judgment Day)

Mothers, take time in every day and hour that God gives you breath here on earth to answer questions, help or encourage by word your children as you walk through this toilsome pathway of life.

MY JOBS IN RANK IMPORTANCY

Today there was so much to do;
Which way to go I hardly knew,
The trash can's full enough to burn,
The garden bounties wait their turn.
A pile of mending meets my eye
A list of staple things to buy.
My shadow is a son, age three,
(Beneath my elbow, on my knee)
Who questions me incessantly,
Or "Here's a worm, Mom. Come and see."
Oh, would someone map out for me
My jobs in rank importancy?

But wait; please don't forget to list
Ample time for "hugs and kiss,"
A story about the giant, tall,
And how boy David made him fall.
Time for band-aid and some salve,
And time to watch a baby calf,
Time to watch a sunset, too,
And gather flowers, orange and blue.
Time to sing his favorite song.
Time to tell him why it's wrong
When he insists, or wears a frown,
Or renders a loquacious sound.

For if tomorrow God would choose
To take my son, oh, I would lose
The opportunity to teach
And clasp the little hands that reach
For love, and time, and all of me
He needs to help him grow, you see.
And I grow, too. In teaching him
I've learned to shed the selfish whim,
I've learned to kneel, I must you see,

The treehouse door's too low for me.
I've learned to wait; I've learned to smile
Upon the growing mending pile.

Sometime when he has grown and left,
Of childish sounds I am bereft,
Then there will be the time I need
To sew, and pull each tiny weed.
Each week I'll wash the kitchen floor
And shine the window in the door.
But now I'll take some time to stop
With him and watch the bunny hop.
"O Father dear, help me to see
My jobs in rank importancy,
And how to lead his mind toward Thee,
And teach him of eternity."

Yes, Thank GOD for our MOTHERS, only HE can give them a
SPECIAL BLESSING!

In Christian love,
Sister Shirley Frick

CROSS BEARING

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." 1 Peter 4:12-13.

The cross is a symbol of the Crucifixion of Jesus. It is a symbol of our redemption. It represents everything we have in Christ. It represents salvation, sanctification, service, grace, love, faith, gifts and glory and much more.

Jesus bore His Cross. He went full circle to comply with His Father's will.

Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone,
And there's a cross for me.

Jesus said, "... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23.

He also stated in Luke 14:27, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." We do not hear much about cross-bearing in our day. We cannot bear Jesus' cross as Simeon did, but over life's span, we, each one, encounter crosses which we, individually, must bear.

What did Jesus mean when He said, "Take up your cross and follow me?" There are many types of crosses. What might constitute

a cross for one may not seem like a cross to someone else. The only bread-winner in a home, upon being laid off from work, has a cross to bear. When a family has a sick member with a terminal illness, they have a cross to bear. When a loved one is drafted to go to war that one has a cross to bear as well as the remaining family.

The catalog of crosses is endless. Crosses are hard to bear. There is nothing easy about them. Although they hurt, every follower of Jesus has a cross to bear. I question if there is a living individual who is not carrying a cross of some kind.

The Apostle Paul had his cross, a thorn in the flesh. He prayed that it might be removed. God did not remove it, but He gave Paul sufficient grace to bear it. I believe we all have crosses and no doubt have prayed for their removal. But God does not always remove them. But He does help us, in due time, to bear them and go on with life. Prayer helps us over such trying times.

The story is told of a man who arrived in the presence of the Lord. He strongly complained that the Lord had neglected him. The Lord then showed him a record of his earthly pilgrimage on the sands of time. The Lord said, "See, I was beside you all the way."

Then they came to a particularly difficult time in the man's life. There was only one set of tracks.

The man lamented, "See, you left me in the most difficult time of my life."

The Lord said, "I DID NOT LEAVE YOU, THAT WAS THE TIME I CARRIED YOU."

We can never know how many times He carried us over a hard place in life. Life is real, life is earnest, but without faith in God, life is meaningless.

There are formidable mountains which you cannot cross, but, by His Spirit, the indwelling Comforter, the Lord will help you over them. The Christian life with all its problems and heart-aches can be lived only by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:3-5, "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." The Spirit helps us bear our cross and how thankful we should be that "THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME."

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

1991 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 15-19, 1991

PREACHING PROGRAM

TIME	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	TEXT
Sat. P.M.	Mark Cordrey	Who Am I, Lord?	I John 3:1-3
Sat. P.M.	Gordon Jamison	The Boundry Line	Ex. 19:1-25
Sat. Eve.	Jacob Ness	Conscientious Objectors?	-----
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School: Children	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
Sun. A.M.	Joseph Flora	Continuity	Rom. 11:21-11, Rev. 3:1-3
Sun. A.M.	Michael Wray	Calling the Church to Repentance	Rev. 3:19-11
Sun. P.M.	Henry Walker	God, A Consuming Fire	Heb. 12:29
Sun. P.M.	Dale Jamison	The World Tomorrow	II Tim. 3:1-5
Sun. Eve.	Paul Stump	Godly Fathers	I Cor. 4:15
Sun. Eve.	Jason Reed	To the Young People: The Vision of Family	Prov. 24:3-4 Prov. 29:18
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study: Adult	Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God	Matt. 6:19-34
	Children	Cornelius and Peter make a Discovery	Acts 10
Mon. A.M.	Fred Johnson	Beware of the Bypass	Jer. 6:16
Mon. P.M.	-----	-----	-----
Mon. P.M.	Wayne Burgess	Who will Fill their Shoes?	I Kings 19:1-21
Mon. Eve.	Hayes Reed	Gethsemane, the Crossroad to Calvary	Luke 22:39-46
Mon. Eve.	Rudy Cover	Living for Jesus, Now!	Rom. 8:35-39
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study: Adult	Being an Example of Godli- ness in these Evil Times	I Tim. 4:1-16
	Children	Paul and Silas in Prison	Acts 16:16-40
Tues. A.M.	James Meyers	-----	-----
Tues. P.M.	Rod Renicker (Decorum Comm.)	Taking Our Witness to the Streets	-----
Tues. Eve.	H. Edward Johnson	If My People....	II Chron. 7:14

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"A New Attitude"

Christianity is a full way of life that must deeply affect your personality and every fiber of your existence if you have committed your way to the Saviour. You should be captivated by the beauty of Jesus' life and His example should be woven into every fabric of daily living. All of your feelings, thoughts and attitudes should be colored by the intimacy of your relationship with Him.

The attitudes we show are transmitted from one generation to another and the feelings expressed by mature Christians are carried by new converts as well as those who are seeking to know the Lord. We would desire that these expressions be rich and full in Jesus Christ.

The life of Jesus is so "awesome" that, when imitated, it serves to bring out the best in our human nature and produces beauty, joy and freedom in our lives.

I hear many people in the world today saying that they can't stand religion because it is so far removed from "real life." I pray that these people have not gotten this attitude from you or me. Is our attitude about Christ and the Church such that it promotes positive and wholesome responses or do we only show people that we "just have religion?" If we "just have religion", I pity us. A new attitude in Christ surpasses religion, which, by the way, most people have. If we understand that religion, by definition, is the sum total of a person's attitude toward life, we can see how superficial religion can be.

We can tell someone that God made us to love, serve, be happy in and to know Him but if we do not manifest these characteristics in our life, we are not going to be effective in our outreach. We must have a right attitude that leads us to attain our goal of spirituality and show the world what Christianity really is. We must have a right behavior towards people, things and money to show forth Jesus in our lives.

Consider this example. I am a teacher of a Sunday School class. I am teaching my pupils that Jesus died for them and that He expects them to sacrifice for each other, to share with others and to be sincerely concerned about others. This teaching becomes fully incomprehensible to a child whose father comes home bitter about people he met during the day and complaining about being cheated and victimized in the "dog-eat-dog" world. If the child hears this day after day, I probably cannot change his mind from the indoctrination and brainwashing achieved in his home. Real Christianity is taught in our actions, words and attitudes.

Probably the most contradictory influence presented to children and young people is achieved by parents sending them off to church

on Sunday morning but staying home themselves or doing something else which is their top priority. At first glance, we would see the parents as good and responsible because they sent the child off to church, right? But what this has done is shown an attitude of indifference toward the church and it has shown how unimportant church attendance is in adult life... all right for "kids", not valuable to thinking adults.

Finally, we must see a new attitude in respect for the name of God. If young people or even adults in the work a day world are constantly exposed to the taking in vain the Name of God, this blasphemy becomes a seemingly normal part of life. An ungodly conditioning seems to take place and possibly the respect of God's name takes on less significance. Whatever language is used at home or in the workplace will automatically become a part of your routine vocabulary.

Let us be nurtured in right attitudes and the development of Christian character. Let us develop healthy Christian lives and strong convictions that will allow us to be molded into the free and happy people that God wants us to be. Kick the old bondage habits. Embrace A NEW ATTITUDE.

Brother Len Wertz

HOW ART THOU FALLEN

Isaiah 14:12-15, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

II Samuel 1:19, "The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!"

II Samuel 1:25, "How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places."

II Samuel 1:27, "How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"

Many, if not most, conservative theologians teach that the verses taken from the book of Isaiah refer to Satan. Just as God gives glimpses into the future, He allowed Isaiah to look back to a time before he was born.

The same problems that ruined Lucifer, Satan's name before his fall, are the same problems that plagued Israel and are a stumbling block today for individuals and the Church. It has been well said that Satan's greatest problem was "I" trouble! We are convinced that the

New Age "self love" teaching is one of the most diabolical teachings to be found today. This teaching is not only taught outright in many liberal denominations but it has appeared in our conservative congregations in a subtle form. Just as Satan lost his home in heaven because of "I" problems, individuals and churches have lost their power with God, and perhaps some their salvation, because of this problem.

II Samuel 1 gives us an insight into why Israel fell. We believe here we find how the "I" problem finds expression in the lives of individuals and churches. Our first verse taken from II Samuel tells us that "the beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places." Here we find that Israel as a nation had problems with her "high places." This is an expression that refers to pagan worship. Much of the earthly church has adopted the things of this world and "baptised" them. They see nothing wrong with using these pagan expressions for the worship of a holy God. So called "Christian rock music" is now being used in some worship services. Many youth have accepted this as a valid way to express their love of God. While this is a more obvious example, many subtle types of pagan worship expressions are found in modern worship services. But most are so proud of their type of worship that they would never admit that there was the possibility of their way of worship being less than what God desires. The New Testament and church history teach us how the early Christians worshipped. Very few are willing to accept this type of worship for today. While many of the modern innovations may not be "sinful" in themselves, they lead to pride in the hearts of individuals and to expressions of emotion and meaningless form in place of pure worship in the assembly. When meetings become so structured that no room is left for the Holy Spirit to work we are in danger of being slain upon our high places! We believe that God desires that our meetings would be decent and in order. But it must be God's order and not that of man.

We also see that Jonathan, an individual, was slain in his high places. To say that we can be a little bit like the world and have Christ in our heart is to fall victim to the big "I". Jonathan fell in the midst of the battle, along with many others. The more we desire to love the Lord and follow Him in all our ways the more we will have to battle our enemy Satan. While we recognize that church traditions can become a trap for us to fall into that will rob us of a genuine experience with our Lord, there is still a need to examine why our forefathers worshipped as they did. We believe that many of our plain traditions were a means of keeping humility within the breast and fighting the sin of pride. Many individuals, and thus congregations and denominations, have fallen because they built their own high places in the midst of the battle of following the teachings of those who had gone on before.

Last, we see that the mighty have fallen because the weapons of war perished. Our weapon of war is God's Holy Bible. We believe the King James Version is the best in the English language and exact copies of it in any other language. Yet most so called Bible doctrine today is based on the wisdom of man and his trite sayings. Very simply put, the vast majority of Christendom is in a fallen state because they have laid aside their holy sword and taken up man's empty hand of false peace. We have put self love, human emotion and man's desires before our love for God. Are any of us really innocent of this?

We are all fallen men and women if we have not accepted the gift of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. If we do not accept this gift of salvation we will "be brought down to hell" along with Satan. We are warned in I Timothy 4:1 that "some shall depart from the faith." We believe the Bible teaches that individuals and groups that do so are also in danger of hell fire. May we desire to remain true and not be among those who God will someday ask, "How art thou fallen?"

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1931

REPENTANCE

R. A. Saylor

Repentance from a Biblical point of view means a Godly sorrow for sin.

Repentance as Webster defines it, is a change of mind, or a conversion from sin to God. Again, let us hear the Apostle Paul define it over in II Cor. 7. Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation.

John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, preached repentance when out in the wilderness preaching preparatory to the coming of the Lord. That seems to be the tenor of his subject, repentance. There are three prerequisites in our Christian activities, faith, repentance and baptism.

Man is born clean and spotless, but day by day, year by year, as he comes to the age of accountability, or in other words, when he knows right from wrong, then we are responsible. We hear James 4:17 speaking on the subject. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Hence repentance.

So we see here repentance ought to claim our earnest and prayerful attention.

We meet up with a twofold sin, that of commission and of omission. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) It seems quite evident by this citation we were all sinners.

Again, when Peter and John were going up to the temple they came in contact with the people. They were amazed at the apostles because of the lame man who was healed. Peter now defends his convictions. (Acts 3:19) "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;" It is obvious we sin, and are sinners.

Saint John the Revelator gives us a list of sins which the world falls under. (Rev. 21:8). "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone:..." provided we fail to heed to God, and do His commandments. God does not look on sin with any degree of approval. If we disbelieve any one command, disregard, ignore it, we stand just as guilty as if we came under all these as cited above.

In the apostolic age in the spreading of the Gospel, we note the apostles were preaching repentance. We read in the Acts Of The Apostles (Acts 17) when the Apostle Paul arrived in Athens he discovered some disorders, the whole city was given over to idolatry. (Acts 17:23) "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." The Apostle goes on to reason with them, and in the 30th verse of the same chapter, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:". Dear Brethren, in the sacred ministry my beloved co-laborers, as we go here and there administering in holy and sacred things may the cause be laid on our hearts that we will preach repentance.

I am aware of the fact that the subject is a very unpopular one. We see a lot of conversion, so to speak, when a revival is on, when the feelings are aroused by some fluent speaker who handles the Word with kid gloves, whose tongue is silvered over, the message is sugar-coated which makes it seem very plausible, not much to do only just believe, one who possesses an oratory which gives much levity on occasions, which is altogether out of order in God's house.

The people are swept off their feet into the church by the dozen, regardless of repentance, and then when the evangelist is gone

things return to normal, the part of them show no indication they have repented. This has come under the writer's observation.

Brothers and Sisters, I believe in a repentance that completely changes a man from head to foot, so that the things we once loved we now hate, and the things we once hated we now love. I do not mean to infer that we should have that disposition of hate. God forbid.

We should delight in doing God's will in the keeping of his commandments.

Now, in concluding, let me say: In the final consummation, when we shall stand before God in judgment the ones who have repented of all their ungodly deeds and their ungodly speeches and proven themselves by the deportment with references to repentance, the King is going to say to them on His right hand, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 25:34) But to those who have not repented will be the opposite. "Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away unto everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Amen.

JUDAS AND THE TITHE

Judas, we have been told, was the treasurer of the little group that followed Christ. Consequently, it was his responsibility to pay the group's tithe at the temple. But, according to early Christian writings, Judas was keeping the tithe for himself. This is why Judas was upset when Mary Magdalene poured a large amount of oil on Jesus — not because he considered it a waste of oil, but because the money spent for the oil had not been tithed. Hence Judas had not been able to pocket his ten percent. But ironically enough, Judas did receive his share after all. For the cost of the oil was three hundred pence and, Holy Scripture tells us, Judas was paid thirty pieces of silver for betraying Christ.

Whether Judas' dishonesty is the truth or not is open to argument, but it does not disguise the fact that if we are not careful we all can have things we keep for ourselves and hide from the Lord. We need to be in complete submission to God, having nothing hid, so that our lives will honor and glorify Him.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

NEWS ITEMS

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to a lovefeast on May 18 and 19, with services starting at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday.

All are cordially invited to come and enjoy the weekend of worship and fellowship together.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The set time for our fall Lovefeast has been changed from the third Sunday in October to the second Sunday in November.

Many soul searching messages were brought to us by Bro. David Aungst in our revival meetings. We were made to rejoice when three young souls accepted Christ as their Savior and one young brother, Michael Mowen, will be received on his former baptism. The three to be received through baptism are Christina and Shannon Eberly, daughter and son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Francie Eberly and Victoria Sensenig, daughter of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Susan Sensenig.

May we support them in prayer so that they might grow and remain true and faithful to the One who loved us so much and died for us.

We commend our teenagers at Lititz for the joy they are bringing to our older members. Their visits with singing hymns and birthday treats are a real blessing to them. One Brother told us, with tears in his eyes, that it sure meant much to him to think that young people will do something like that. Another Sister made the remark that they will never know how much it did for her when they came and spent an evening singing for her.

Their blessing and reward will be great when using their time and talents in such a worthy cause instead of indulging in sin and the pleasures of life which are only for a season.

May God bless our young people to keep up the good work.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PRAYERS ARE THE STAIRS TO GOD

Prayers are the stairs
We must climb every day,
If we would reach God
There is no other way.
For we learn to know God
When we meet Him in prayer
And ask Him to lighten
Our burden of care —
So start in the morning
And, though the way is steep,
Climb ever upward
Till your eyes close in sleep —
For prayers are the stairs
That lead to the Lord,
And to meet Him in prayer
Is the climber's reward.

- Selected by Sister Meriam Pletcher

A STORY TO TELL

Jonah was sent by God to go to Ninevah to warn that wicked city of its soon-to-be fate. Even though God sent him he did not want to go. He did not want to warn his enemies that they would soon be destroyed. He wanted God to destroy the Ninevites. They deserved every bit of the punishment that God meted out to them, Jonah thought, and he was probably right, but God still wanted to warn them that He would destroy them in forty days. God sent Jonah as an expression of His mercy, wide enough to include these cruel, heartless enemies of His People. He wanted Jonah to go, even though it would be the hardest thing that he had ever done. He not only sent him, but He also gave the message he was to proclaim.

Jonah did not see his mission as God did. He wanted nothing of going to Ninevah, nor of warning them that God would destroy them. He decided to head for the other end of the Mediterranean Sea, instead of heading overland to Ninevah. He brought a great danger and loss of goods because he had chosen that ship to carry him away from God's appointed task. God did not let him get away from the work He had for him to do. He finally had to tell his story to his traveling companions. After they threw him overboard, the sea was calmed. He ended up inside the great fish God had prepared to swallow him. There he had time to consider his ways and what he must do to again follow God's will for his life. After his prayer of reconciliation, he was given another chance to go where God wanted him to go.

When he arrived at Ninevah, no harm came to him. Instead he entered about a third of the way into the city, where he began to

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proclaim the message that God had given to him for Ninevah. Once he had spoken the message of repentance, the Ninevites of all ages and classes began to give heed to the message. The doom that was slated for the city was forestalled because they had listened to the story that God had delivered to them through Jonah. After all his contrary actions, Jonah told his story and it produced a great revival.

Many other Bible writers had a story to tell. Some were not as exciting as Jonah's in terms of physical excitement, but they were stories of great Spiritual import. Peter could tell those gathered on the day of Pentecost about the empowering of the Holy Spirit, which was God's Gift to those who would accept the Gospel. Not only could the Spirit provide instant translation of ministers' remarks but He could just as dramatically change people's lives. That which had been weak and uncertain before could become strong and dependable, just like Peter, himself. Peter could tell them not only of his past boasts and failures but also take his bold stand before them and tell them that they had been responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. His bold stand, empowered by the Spirit, caused many to seek the solution to their lives' greatest need. He could tell them they needed faith, repentance and baptism that they, too, might receive the same Spirit that had empowered him.

Paul had a story to tell. He could tell how he had persecuted the Church before his conversion on the road to Damascus. He had served God with the most zealous determination possible. He could shut out the appeals of those he would bind and imprison. He could stand by and consent to the stoning of Stephen. But when the Lord got ahold of Paul, he would become the great missionary Apostle, who spread the gospel to many areas throughout the Roman Empire. He could tell of the various persecutions that he had faced as he ministered in place after place. He faced persecutions from the Jews and the Gentiles. But throughout the imprisonments and the physical sufferings he continued to preach the gospel. He also continued to nurture the congregations of believers that he had established. Even when his life was at stake, Paul had a story to tell.

Christians have had a story to tell for nearly two thousand years. Not only have they been able to tell the old stories from the Word of God, but they can tell of the application of that gospel to their individual lives. Each Christian should have a story to tell. They should tell how they came to accept the saving gospel proclaimed in the Word of God and how it has been applied to their lives. Each should be able to speak of the time when they realized their sinful condition and they realized the only remedy for it was the shed blood of Jesus Christ. They realized that the Bible had laid out for

them the way that would bring them into fellowship with God and other believers.

The Bible writers told their stories willingly and well. Are you willing to tell yours?

LIFE'S UNEXPECTED CROSSES

Matthew 16:24, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

The word "cross" used here means: "Burden of suffering, troubles, trials and misfortunes". Christ knew from the beginning that He must face the old rugged cross.

We do not know when we must face a cross, but we have them and at times the least unexpected. My text definitely teaches us that we, each one, will have our own crosses — take up his (my) cross.

Simon, the Cyrene, was on his way to Jerusalem to keep the Passover. Jesus was being led to Calvary to be crucified. Jesus, being weak from the horrible ordeal He already had been through, could not bear His cross all the way. In Matthew 27:32 we read, "And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross." He faithfully bore Jesus' cross.

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for ev'ry one,
And there's a cross for me."

Job was a godly man. He bore an unexpected cross that took health, family, friends and property away from him. Why should a righteous man suffer so? I believe Job prayed about it, but no immediate answer came. We each, have had crosses and though we prayed for the burden to be lifted, seemingly, no answer. God's timer is different than ours.

Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, physically shrinking from another cross, prayed three times that the cup of suffering (His cross) might pass from Him, "nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done." He gave us an example how we should approach our crosses.

Every Christian will, at sometime in their life, come face to face with one or more crosses. We do not want them. We would shun them if we could. **WE MUST BEAR THEM** and with God's help, we can.

The Apostle Paul had a cross. A THORN IN THE FLESH. He prayed for its removal. God did not remove it, but informed Paul that He (God) would give Paul sufficient grace to bear it.

As we read the daily news, we find there are many types of crosses to bear. Homes and possessions lost by fire. A wife with a drunken husband. A husband with a gad about wife. The birth of a deformed child and the list goes on.

A great help in bearing crosses is having a personal relationship with Christ. The important thing is, not why, but how shall we bear these unexpected crosses? Shall we conquer them or will they conquer us? The true test of life, is not when everything goes our way. The true test is how we respond to these crosses when we must meet up with them.

We have at least three ways to dispose of them. FIRST, we may try to escape. This is the coward's way. Judas took this path by hanging himself. Twenty thousand people in America choose this way out each year. Thousands more are in hiding. Others attempt escape through drugs, liquor, and so forth. Such a way of meeting our crosses only delays the day we will meet them headlong, with no escape.

The SECOND choice is defeat. Magazine articles and other sources of information inform us that thousands, upon meeting with crosses, give up in despair. They become bitter with man and at times, with God. This is the way of defeat. God does not want any of His children to admit defeat, but rather to rely on Him for help and take up their crosses and follow Him.

Many inventions, writings, pieces of poetry and so forth, were given to us by those that had heavy crosses, but did not admit defeat. Fanny Crosby was blind, a heavy cross, but she did not admit defeat. She wrote six thousand hymns, two of them being, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" and "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross."

The THIRD choice is to accept the cross and continue on. That is what Jesus did. He accepted His cross. This is the Christian solution. God permits crosses to bring out hidden qualities. Helen Keller, when she was but nineteen months old, was stricken with scarlet fever and left deaf and blind. A double cross. As she grew older, she accepted it and applied herself. She lectured throughout the world, using her cross as an example to encourage others who may have similar crosses to bear.

John Bunyon wanted to preach. Then he met up with an unexpected cross. He was imprisoned. This did not deter him from helping people. While in prison, he wrote PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, which became a blessing to many. He performed his greatest work, while bearing his cross.

Another of the Apostle Paul's crosses was imprisonment. He was a prisoner for righteousness' sake. While laboring under the burden of this cross, he was not idle. He wrote a number of the epistles, which are a blessing to all who read them. God accepted them to become a fair share of the HOLY BIBLE.

A noted violinist once was playing a very difficult piece, before a huge audience. He was striving to do his best when the violin's "A" string snapped. He hesitated a moment, then stopped? No. He continued with three strings. When he finished, there was a tremendous ovation, not so much for the ability shown, but because he did not let one broken string defeat him.

There are times when each of us has similar experiences. Opportunities come. We are trying to work out something important to us. Maybe a dream we had hoped to become a reality. Then, an unexpected cross looms. One of the strings upon which we were depending, breaks. Now what? Shall we accept defeat or continue on three strings?

Persecutions, heartaches, misfortunes and disappointments will come. We are not promised all sunshine, we will encounter clouds, also. How they leave us is determined by our anchorage. If left bitter, if they diminish our faith, if we are less sympathetic, less tolerant, we have not borne our cross well.

If these crosses leaves us stronger in the faith we have borne them. Its a part of a Christian's life to overcome challenges, and having done all to stand. The difference how we bear our crosses is not in the crosses but in us. THE SAME SUN THAT MELTS ICE HARDENS CLAY.

In conclusion, Jesus foretold His disciples that there would be crosses. Paul prayed for the removal of the thorn in his flesh. It was not removed but grace was extended to Paul. Something better was supplied. His courage in prison, his fortitude in shipwreck and his patience with false brethren were no doubt the results of the abundance of grace supplied him by God. One thing certain, crosses brings us to our knees, and closer to God.

Had Christ not bore his cross, THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, it would have resulted in shame rather than triumph, and we would be without hope and lost.

We may never know the reason for our crosses. God has a plan and purpose back of every cross. We know that life's sweetest music is often played on three strings. Some times it seems we are compelled to make music with a broken heart. Remember one thing. CROSSES ARE WHAT CROWNS ARE MADE OF.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

To the "boss"...

Many of you will aspire to be in a managerial position in your life's work and some of you may already be in that category at this time. There is nothing wrong with working hard to achieve a management position as long as your spiritual goals line up with your vocational goals.

God has much to say about the Christian "boss" or manager. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven." The Greek word for "justice (or just)" is "DIKAIOS". This is the same word the Bible uses for "righteousness". It means that there is to be justness in the sense of judging without partiality or prejudice. It indicates that you will be right in your conduct... both by scriptural as well as human standards.

Ephesians 6:9 teaches us, "And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening; knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him." The Apostle was telling us that a manager should treat his fellow workers with the same attitudes with which his subordinates are to treat him. There must be respect and good will at the base of all decisions and treatment of others.

You cannot get so high in your company that you do not have someone over you. You will always have a Master in Heaven and you will treat your workers just as you can expect to be treated by God. If you were in their places, how would you want to be treated? That will be your guide to how you treat them.

The Bible teaches us to give up threatening. This has always been a weapon used by employers and supervisors against those under them. For a Christian, threatening is not only a bad witness but is really a very poor management technique. Motivation of employees only comes by positive reinforcement. It also comes from paying them fairly. The Word indicates that a laborer is worthy of his hire (wages). Positive reinforcement and fair pay will build trust and respect between the employee and employer.

If you are a manager or supervisor, God has placed you in a position of authority. You must work to manage as God has taught... not to crush the spirit of another individual but to build them up to top efficiency.

The "boss" is to manage without partiality. The Greek word for "partiality" refers to favoritism and we are literally taught not to show preference as to rank, popularity or position of other people. To favor someone who is powerful or rich for personal advancement is against the real values of a Christian taught in God's Word.

It is basic to our testimony... that if it is going to be positive for Jesus Christ, we must have a proper testimony in our actions and not neglect to follow the Lord at work. In fact, if you understand that you spend more time in that task than any other, you begin to see the importance of using those hours for the glory of God.

The New Testament standard for leadership is compassion and fairness. It is remembering our submission to the will of our higher Authority, Jesus Christ. Only as we submit to God will we be effective in leading others.

Brother Len Wertz

NO SUCH CUSTOM

I Corinthians 11:16, "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

Hosea 7:1, "When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without."

Hosea 7:8, "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned."

Hosea 7:10, "And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek him for all this."

Hosea 7:11, "Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria."

If we were to read or quote the first part of I Corinthians 11 we would find that the issue being discussed is the wearing of the prayer veil. Paul is clearly saying that the churches of God have no such custom as women praying or prophesying without a proper head veiling nor of men praying or prophesying with their heads covered. Related issues are that man is to be the head of the woman and that woman are to have uncut hair and men are not to have long hair.

Various branches of the modern church have twisted I Corinthians 11:16 in various ways to accommodate their own twisted theology. It is obvious that a "straw man" is being used to cover disobedience. This "straw man" is the danger of replacing Scripture with the customs of men. Not that this is not a legitimate concern. The cults and false religion have used this device to lead multitudes into a Christless eternity. However, those who fall under the category of "fundamental" or "orthodox" Christianity have also replaced Scriptural teaching with manmade theology under the guise of rejecting manmade traditions. In the book of Hosea we find an interesting parallel of how this has happened. We

would urge you to read the entire seventh chapter of Hosea. In order to save time and space we will only be using the selected verses listed at the beginning of this article.

In Hosea 7:1 we find that "they commit falsehood." They build their "house" on the "sand" of man's wisdom in place of the rock of Holy Scripture. Various groups have various false teachings that are the backbone of their movement. Some build their hopes on unscriptural, unconditional, eternal security. If, as they teach, what you do has absolutely nothing to do with your salvation, then the "doing" areas of Holy Scripture become nonessentials. Revelation 22:14 teaches us, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Others rely upon an experience that they feel gives them the right to their own interpretation of God's Holy Word. But Christ warns in Matthew 7:21-23 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Next God says in His Word, "and the thief cometh in." If churches are building on a false foundation, Satan, the thief, will be there to "bless their efforts." It goes on to say, "and the troop of robbers spoileth without." The vast majority of "religious" individuals and gatherings will rob individuals of the truth of God's Word and ridicule those who try to save you from eternal destruction.

Hosea 7:8 reads, "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people." It is loudly declared that there is no need for a Christian to look different from the worldly unsaved crowd. In fact, it is taught that this is an advantage because it gives you a better chance of witnessing to the lost! Not only are Christians many times encouraged to look like the unsaved crowd, they are encouraged to attend the worldly sports events, or at least watch them on the worldly television, so they have something in common to talk to with the unsaved. But God tells us in II Corinthians 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

As we find in Hosea 7:10 it is human pride that keeps one from obeying God in all of His ways. Who wants to belong to a small group of believers that are laughed at behind their backs when many groups are available who offer salvation without ridicule? You do not have to belong to MY church to enter Heaven, but you will have to return to the Lord your God and seek HIM for all of this.

Do not be like a silly dove without heart. Do not "call to Egypt" (the world) or "go to Assyria" (compromising churches) for your answers. Go directly to the Word of God. **THE BIBLE CONTAINS NO LIES EXCEPT THOSE RECORDED THAT WERE TOLD BY A MAN OR WOMAN.**

We leave you with words from our Lord Jesus Christ. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." The first part is for those who have never been saved. Will you receive it and escape the punishment of eternal Hell? Does the second part mean we must believe ALL of scripture (and thus obey it)? You must decide.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1931

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

L. W. Beery

The time for another annual Conference is swiftly approaching. As we consider this, many questions arise in our minds: Just what kind of a meeting will it be? What problems will we face? What opportunities will present themselves? How much progress have we made in the past year? What is the outlook for our cause at the present time?

Having some knowledge of conditions that are existing in the world and in the professing Christian churches of the land, as well as our own denomination, the writer has a few suggestions to offer our readers, especially those who are coming to Conference, which we hope might be helpful.

Having a share of the responsibility of this meeting and knowing the sentiments of the folks in this vicinity, who shall be host to this year's Conference, and desiring to see this a meeting that will be a blessing to the community in which it is held as well as to all those permitted to attend and that the cause of Christ may be strengthened, much good seed sown, which ultimately will result in many precious souls saved, I feel there are some things we should all bear in mind.

In the first place, this Conference, like all others, will be just what we make it. I am sure it is the desire of us all that this shall be the best Conference we have yet attended. If so, it lays within our power to make it such. In order that it may be such a meeting, we

must recognize and abide by some settled facts. If this meeting is to be as we desire, the Holy Spirit must have full sway and control. Anything short of this will lessen the success and beneficial results materially. If we would have a spiritual meeting, then we must allow the Holy Spirit to direct the speech and conduct of each of us present. If this would be true, then there are some things we can be assured of. Gal. 5:22-23 tells us, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...."

The manifestations of these Christian graces in the life of folks is an indication of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

If one is lacking in any of these graces it indicates a lack of the fullness of the spirit to a certain extent. The Spirit only operates in our lives to the extent that we become subject and obedient thereto.

The primary purpose of Conference is to bring about a oneness of practice in the brotherhood. It is to this assembly that we present our questions and problems in order that we may find the mind of the Spirit on the matter at issue. When our queries are presented, explained and discussed, if we follow the dictates of the Holy Spirit a decision will result that will be satisfactory and helpful. Then unity and harmony will prevail amongst us and the cause will be in a position to prosper for another year, thus all will be edified, the cause will be strengthened and we shall gain prestige in the sight of those without the fold.

There is another thought right here. In our zeal, in our certain line of work or for some measure to pass the meeting, we are likely under the stress of the occasion to overstep the line of propriety or decorum and say or do something out of keeping with our profession. We are apt to allow the flesh to get the better of the spirit. As a result often great harm is done and the helpfulness of the meeting is lessened considerably. A few unkind words or actions will taint the best meeting. In Gal. 5:20-21 we find amongst other things mentioned that hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, and heresies belong to the flesh. These are traits of human nature and when they manifest themselves amongst us it is an indication that the flesh is overcoming the spirit. As a result, there will be contention and no decision on matters in question can be reached, under these circumstances that will be in harmony with the word or will give satisfaction and bring about unity.

Differences of opinions and understanding will arise at times but in the settlement of these there is no excuse whatever in allowing the flesh to operate and hinder the work of the spirit.

In Eph. 4:30-32 the writer tells us, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all

bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Here we are told to put away these traits of human nature and in Col. 3:12-13, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering. Forebearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." This admonition is for church people and is essential at all times to the welfare of the cause. We, as the Dunkard Brethren Church, claim to stand for the "Faith once delivered to the saints." Now, if we are the elect of God let us show it to the world by a close and consistent practice of that "Faith." If each of us put into practice the foregoing Scripture then we can be assured of a pleasant worthwhile meeting.

To those coming to the Conference, I would say this yet. If you have any unkind words to say, and doubts, fears, or uncertainties in regard to our work, any harsh criticism, questionable motives, plans or theories, please leave them at home.

If you have any jealousy, envy, hatred, selfishness, ill-will, or grudge, in your heart get it out of your system before you come to Conference. You will enjoy the meeting better and so will other folks.

Then, again, if you have any helpful suggestions, any words of kindness, or encouragement, any constructive reasonings or plans for the betterment of the cause, bring them along, we need them.

Much depends upon the work of our annual Conferences, therefore, we should do all in our power to make it the very best possible meeting. The committee is doing its best to take care of the meeting and to make your stay a pleasant one. It would be very unkind, and unmannerly, indeed, for everyone during the course of the meeting to conduct themselves in speech or action in a way that would impair or detract from the helpfulness of the meeting. So we are expecting you to conduct yourselves as "becometh folks professing Godliness." With this understanding in mind we welcome you to Southern Ohio, hoping that each will come with a song in their hearts and a prayer on their lips, with an open heart and a ready mind willing to do his share in the Master's kingdom for the saving of souls.

Conditions at large demand careful, thoughtful, prayerful action and procedure. Can the Lord depend on you?

A HEART BREAKER

"King Heroin is my shepherd, I shall always want."

These tragic words, part of a twisted recording of the beloved Twenty-Third Psalm, were discovered recently in Reidsville, North Carolina, in a closed car along side a dead heroin addict. She was only twenty-three years old. Her death was ruled a suicide. A hook-up with the car's exhaust had sent carbon monoxide fumes from a running motor into the vehicle.

Here's the complete psalm:

King Heroin is my shepherd, I shall always want

He maketh me to lie down in the gutters,

He leadeth me beside the troubled water,

He destroyeth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of wickedness.

Yea, I shall walk through the valley of poverty,

I will fear no evil for thou, Heroin, are with me.

Thy needles and capsules comfort me.

They strip the table of groceries in the presence of my family,

Thou robbest my head of reason,

My cup of sorrow runneth over.

Surely heroin addiction shall stay with me

All the days of my life.

I will dwell in the house of the wicked forever.

Also found in the car with the dead woman was this written message, "Jail didn't cure me, nor did hospitalization help me for long. The doctor told my family it would have been better, and indeed kinder, if the person who got me hooked on dope had taken a gun and used it. I only wished to God he had. Oh, I wish he had."

Selected form Modesto Bee

Dear readers, to me this is a very sad piece. I wonder, in the first place, who was to blame. When she was small what kind of home life did she have? Was it a christian home? Was she in Sunday School and church on Sundays? Or was she born in a home where there was no time for Christ? We must go back to the beginning of her life to see what went wrong.

Young married people let me plead with you as you start your new life together, start it with the Dear Lord. When children are born into your home, there will be a Christian environment where Christ will come first.

I feel if the girl would have had a home, a christian home, I don't think she would have drifted into this kind of life. If she had been taught to attend church she would have had Christian friends and

would not have gone with a worldly crowd of dope and drugs. She did not have Christ in her life. She was seeking for something to satisfy. If she had been a christian she would have been out seeking lost souls for Christ. All her time would have been taken helping to spread the Gospel to those who need help and to follow along with her to a higher life.

Dear ones let your home be one where Christ would always be a welcome guest.

Sister E. M. Alltus

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

A number of ministers had gathered to discuss difficult questions, and among other things it was asked how the command to "pray without ceasing" could be obeyed.

Various suggestions were offered, and at last one of the number was appointed to write an essay on the subject, to be read at the next monthly meeting. A servant woman who was cleaning in the room overheard the discussion and exclaimed,

"What! a whole month to tell the meaning of that text? Why, it's one of the easiest and best verses in the Bible."

"Well, well, Mary," said an old minister, "what do you know about it? Can you pray all the time?"

"Oh, yes, sir!"

"What, when you have so many things to do?"

"Why, sir the more I have to do, the more I can pray."

"Indeed! well, Mary, how do you do it? Most people wouldn't agree with you."

"Well, sir," said the girl, "when I first open my eyes in the morning, I pray: 'Lord, open the eyes of my understanding'; and while I am dressing, I pray that I may be clothed with the robe of righteousness; and while I am washing, I ask to have my sins washed away. As I begin to work, I pray that I may have strength for all the work of the day; and while I kindle the fire, I pray that the fires of revival may be kindled in me. While preparing and eating breakfast, I ask to be fed with the Bread of Life and the pure milk of the Word. As I sweep the house, I pray that my heart may be swept clean of all its impurities. And as I am busy with the little children, I look up to God as my Father and pray that I may always have the trusting love of a little child — and so on all day. Everything I do gives me a thought for prayer...."

"Enough, enough!" cried the minister, "these things are often hid from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes, as the Lord Himself said. Go on, Mary," he continued, "pray without ceasing.

And as for us, my brethren, let us thank the Lord for this lesson. I dare say we will not need to wait a month, now, to learn to pray without ceasing!"

Selected

NEWS ITEMS

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Brother James Meyers from Dallas Center, Iowa has consented to serve as speaker during the week of June 23 to 30, 1991. Services are scheduled to begin at 7:30 P.M.

We solicit your prayers and attendance.

Sister Mary Hartz, Cor.

THANK YOU

We wish to take this way to thank all of those over the Brotherhood for their prayers and cards that were sent while I was in the hospital in January. Also, the forty-fifth anniversary cards and birthday cards my wife and I received in February.

Thanks again and may God bless each one of you.

Brother and Sister John Ruschhaupt

NOTICE

We here at Bethel Dunkard Brethren School are in need of teachers for 91-92 school terms. Any interested please contact school or call Verling Wolfe 717-933-4246.

Pray the Lord will direct and fill our need. Thank you!

ATTENTION SEAMSTRESSES

We have been asked to publish a book on Sewing for Conservative Men. Using a simplified Kwik-Sew method, it would give step-by-step instructions and illustrations showing how to make men's plain suits and trousers and how to change suits. An outline for such a book has already been drawn up. Is there enough interest and potential sale for such a book to warrant the expense of further development and publication? If you would buy such a book (\$5-\$10) if it were available, please let us know soon. You may write to Christian Light Publications, c/o Lloyd Hartzler, Box 1126, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 or call 703-434-0768.

Sister Fae Kasza

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1991

June 2 - Living to the Will of God - I Peter 4:1-6.

1. Why do unbelievers think Christians living is strange? Rom. 8:5-8.
2. How does the Will of God guide us in spiritual battle?

June 9 - Fervent Charity - I Peter 4:7-11.

1. Define and apply charity to life.
2. What effect will charity have on unity?

June 16 - FATHER'S DAY - Luke 8:41-56.

1. What is the calling of father?
2. What image of the Heavenly Father do our children see in us?

June 23 - TEMPERANCE - Acts 24:10-26.

1. How important is temperance?
2. What areas of your life need more self control?

June 30 - Suffering as a Christian - I Peter 4:12-19.

1. Why should spiritual suffering not seem strange to us? John 15:20.
2. How should we face suffering? I Peter 2:19-24.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1991

June 2 - Attire - Deut. 22:5, Isa. 3:18-23, Matt. 6:25-32, I Tim. 2:8-10.

1. What is the real purpose of our attire?
2. What adornment is precious to God? I Pet. 3:3-5.

June 9 - Spiritual Foundations - Isa. 28:16, I Cor. 3:10-15, I Tim. 6:18-19, II Tim. 2:19-26.

1. How important is our spiritual foundation? Matt. 7:24-29.
2. What foundation are we to build on? verse 12.

June 16 - Fathers - Gen. 18:19, Gen. 27:26-27, I Kings 2:1-4, Acts 10:1-4.

1. What qualities do you appreciate in your father?
2. Have you honored your father?

June 23 - Christian's Armor - Eph. 6:10-24.

1. Why do we need spiritual armor?
2. How do we become adept in the use of our spiritual armor?

June 30 - Temperance - Pro. 23:1-3, 20-23, 29-32, Luke 21:34-36, Eph. 5:17-20.

1. Define and apply temperance to your life.
2. What area of your life needs more self-control?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE NARROW WAY

Broad is the road that leads to death,
And thousands walk together there.
But wisdom shows a narrow path,
With here and there a traveler.

"Deny thyself, and take thy cross,"
Is the Redeemer's great command;
Nature must count her gold but dross,
If she would gain this heav'nly land.

The fearful soul that tires and faints,
And walks the ways of God no more,
Is but esteemed almost a saint,
And makes his own destruction sure.

Lord, let not all my hopes be vain;
Create my heart entirely new,
Which hypocrites could ne'er attain,
Which false apostates never knew.

- Isaac Watts

PLAIN AND SIMPLE

When we read the three Epistles written by the Apostle John, we are struck with his plain and simple view of right and wrong. He did not favor gray areas. With John things were black or white. As he saw it, either a person loved God and was willing to do His bidding or else he was an enemy of God. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." (I John 2:4) "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now." (I John 2:9) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (I John 2:15) His statements may not have been very popular in his day, nor in his "black or white" view very popular today.

Because of a desire to be all things to all people, there may be a lack of a clear, bold, forthright stand, so people will know where we, as individuals, or as a Church stand. People can always find extenuating circumstances that would prevent them from doing all that they could. Today there are ever so many excuses for not doing what God has asked through His Word or what the Church has decided is the proper course for her members to follow in serving God.

We live in a day when education is looked to as the greatest need of mankind. Certainly, education is needed if we are to be able to read, understand and proclaim the Word of God. Although modern education takes a decidedly anti-Christian stance, the original purpose behind the development of public education was to prepare people to understand the Bible, so the nation would be bettered through having a populace that read, knew, understood

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and applied the Bible to their lives. With this background, the nation would have an orderly, law-abiding, good-seeking people. That was a wise course, which has been proven by the predicament the nation is in now, following several generations of non-Biblical based education.

The present world with its computerized educational, financial, and governmental system, along with its bureaucratic logjams, has become a very complicated place. If things are not complicated, it does not seem to be just quite what is expected. People are wary of anything that is simple or plain. They would rather make what is "black or white" something more than what it really has to be. Those who would prefer a simple lifestyle and a simple response to the problems of the day are told that the answers are not quite that simple. If a lot of bureaucracy cannot be involved, a lot of forms and reports not filled out, and a lot of big words and phrases not used, then there is no hope of accomplishing anything. The world today is afraid of what is plain and simple.

This feeling can also affect the church. She may begin to think that the old beliefs, practices and methods have become outmoded. There may be a desire to use newer methods developed by larger or more popular churches. There may be an attempt to incorporate psychology and psychiatry, by the untrained, to deal with problems, instead of a reliance on the Bible. There is a place for such disciplines but not by amateurs, who try to sound more profound than what they really understand. It is an attempt to use very technical and limited methods, where a healthy dose of Bible truth would be a better medicine. It is a means of evading that which is plain and simple.

Far too often, those in the church realizing that they possess a great possession, try to make the way of entrance into the church and the Christian life much more difficult than it was meant to be. It is not in great philosophical dissertations, but in the retelling of the old, old story. It is the retelling of the story of Jesus and what He has done for each human being through His death, burial and resurrection so souls could be rescued from the fate of mankind's destiny. It is the telling of how each one can accept this Gift of God, born out of Grace and Mercy and delivered to us through Love. It is not through a complicated rigamarole, the worship of images, or worldly gifts or deeds, that men can be changed from sinners to saints. It is the plain and simple way that God has designed.

The plain and the simple may seem too uncomplicated, too uneducational, too unpsychological, or just too simple in this modern world in which we live today. If people could only see beyond the complications that the world thinks to be so necessary so they could plainly see the way to light, life and eternity.

Have you rejected the world's additives, accepting instead the plain and simple way that God has established for your well being?

THE DESERT OF THE SEA

Isaiah 21:1a, "The burden of the desert of the sea..."

Isaiah 23:4, "Be thou ashamed, O Zidon: for the sea hath spoken, even the strength of the sea, saying, I travail not, nor bring forth children, neither do I nourish up young men, nor bring up virgins."

II Peter 2:1-2, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

Recently we were on a trip with Brother Paul and Sister Mary Hartz from Palmyra, Pennsylvania to Palmyra, Virginia. We found ourselves to be on a beautiful four lane divided highway that was ideal for travel. It was almost like being on an ocean liner crossing a large body of water. We were feeling very good about the good time we were making until we suddenly realized that we somehow got on the wrong route! We were going very good on a very nice expressway. The only problem was we were not headed in the right direction.

Much of the modern earthly church compares to our mistake. They invite you to join them in their travel to Heaven. Their travel is a fun filled sea voyage. They will provide you with entertainment such as "Christian movies," special music, and other assorted spectacles. They promise you a smooth sailing voyage that will bring you safely to the other side. All you have to do is enjoy it! It is like the broad way that our Lord talked about in Matthew 7:13. The only problem is He warned us that this way leads to destruction!

After about a fifty mile detour we finally got on the right road. It turned out to be a little two lane highway. It was not nearly as nice to drive on, but it would take us to our destination. This reminds us that our Lord told us narrow is the way which leadeth unto life. Likewise what may appear to be a beautiful sea that would be ideal to sail across may be, in actuality, a dry, barren desert. When this is placed in a spiritual setting "The burden of the desert of the sea" is put upon our heart.

Yes, the sea of modern religion has spoken. It says "I travail not." Acts 14:22 informs us, "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Are we willing to suffer the sneers of the multitudes for our Lord? While living the plain way of life is no substitute for salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we are convinced that it is a complement to this ultimate truth. Our soul is grieved by the rushing trend of labeling the traditions of our forefathers "commandments of men." At least

ninety percent of the time when tradition is set aside it is replaced by something acceptable to the world! "Black hats, bonnets and beards" will not save us. But if such things keep us away from shorts, bathing suits, and other worldly and immodest attire it is both a blessing and pleasing to the Lord. Oh yes, the sea of modern religion will cry LEGALISM. They will even tell you such things may cause you unnecessary turmoil of the mind. But beware! Their beautiful sea of life is nothing but a desert full of dead men's bones.

Some of modern religion is not interested in bringing forth children. They believe everyone is already saved and on their way to Heaven. They deny that anyone will spend an eternity in a burning Hell. They have replaced preaching the Gospel with doing good works. While the Lord Jesus Christ warns us that "few there be that find it" this is no reason to ignore the great commission to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Can we bring forth children if we do not obey ALL of this instruction?

This sea of modern religion does not nourish up young men, nor bring up virgins. In place of telling young people of the danger of the dance floor, modern religion sponsors dances for them in the name of the church. They offer them recreation in place of God's recreation. We are not opposed to young people having a good time playing various games but when a church has to have organized sports events to draw or keep the youth there is something wrong. The problem may be that the living water that is to be a part of those who are to set an example for our youth has been replaced with dry desert sand.

Peter warns us that there were false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you. They present themselves as a sea of living water but are, in reality, a desert of doom. They claim to be a part of the conservative church but, in reality, follow the thinking of modern religion. They deny the Lord that bought them. No, they will not deny the PERSON of Jesus Christ but they deny HIS TEACHINGS. They will try to persuade you to follow man's interpretation of the Holy Bible (which is all our Lord's teaching, especially the New Testament) in place of the understanding that stood for hundreds of years. "And many shall follow their pernicious ways" and follow them into "the desert of the sea."

Remember "the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." Be sure you are on the right road. Do not be misled by the lie that all that is needed is a one time salvation experience. Hebrews 3:14, "For we

are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

Brother James M. Hite
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. Average Christian

Are you an AVERAGE Christian? Are you just doing enough to get along and keep out of trouble with the Church and with God or are you responding to the challenge of the Lord for commitment? Status quo Christians are a dime a dozen today... those with no specific goals who seem to be going nowhere and doing nothing. But you say, "I go to church every Sunday morning." "Sometimes I sing in church but not loud enough that anyone can hear me." "I lead in prayer if I'm asked, but I don't pray when someone else is leading." If this is your experience, you are "Mr. Average Christian." Mediocrity has set in and rigor mortis is not far behind.

Now is the time to admit to a small commitment and to ask what you might do to be more productive in the service of the Lord. Now is the time to pray that God will strengthen you for an above average walk with Him.

What is it going to take? First of all, you need a high degree of motivation. This comes from a change of attitude. We are to be satisfied in whatsoever stage we find ourselves... but this does not apply to motivation or commitment.

It will take courage. You need to be persistent and go straight into the battle. Of course, it will only be safe to do that if you have the armour of God in place.

Set goals. This will give you a sense of direction. Where do you hope to be in your Christian life next month, next year, ten years from now?

Thirst after knowledge. You can never get enough of God's Word. It just keeps opening up new truths the more you study it.

Take some chances. Be willing to risk failure to win someone to the Lord. The Apostle Paul would work endlessly... that "he might win some."

Be enterprising. Tackle the tough jobs and don't always do the easy and safe ones.

Communicate. This is going to take some work in the areas of friendliness, dynamics, articulate discussion and alertness.

Be adaptable. The only thing that is constant in life is change. If you are frustrated with change and not allowing yourself to work in it, you will have very little opportunity for outreach in the 1990's.

Be ready for long hours in the service of the Lord. Edison said that genius was one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration. Could it be that Christians today are scared to perspire... to work with all of their might to be an asset to the Kingdom of Christ?

Maybe you are like an old flashlight found in a desk drawer. It had been in the drawer for over a year. When it was turned on it was not surprising that it gave no light. When it was unscrewed and the batteries were to be taken out, they wouldn't budge. Finally... they came out with some effort and they were a mess... covered with battery acid and corroded and useless. Of course, the batteries were new when they were put in the case a year before but there was one problem. These energy sources were not designed to be warm and comfortable and stored away. They were designed to be turned on... to be used. This was their only reason for existing.

So it is with us. We are made to be turned on... to be put to work and make light in a dark world. We are called upon to use the energies God has given us and use them for productive labor for His cause. Only then will we understand fully the idea of being "born again."

Don't be an "average Christian." Allow yourself to be fully used of God.

Brother Len Wertz

THE CHURCH VISIT

The Annual Church Visit was established and practiced many decades ago. It is practiced today for the same reason it was established in the beginning. For the betterment and unity of the membership. Also, to ascertain the Spiritual condition of the Church membership.

Prior to a lovefeast, or at least once a year, it is the responsibility of the deacons to personally visit each member. Where there are insufficient deacons to do the work, or if the deacons are newly in office, it is appropriate for the Elder to serve, or he may appoint another minister to help. If necessary, members, other than officials can be called upon. Two deacons, and if the congregation is large, two or more teams make the visit, aiming to visit every member of that congregation, fulfilling the Divine Injunction, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses." There are instances where members live quite a distance from the Church. The visit is to include them, if possible.

The visit is conducted differently now than years back, although the same results are accomplished. Today most visits are made in the evening. Many of our members work in public industry and are

not home during the day. The same is true of members going to school. An evening visit is more apt to be completed, without a return visit.

Years back, when most members lived on farms most visits were conducted during daylight hours. The farm families were home. Also, the deacons traveled by horse and buggy, making daytime travel much more convenient than night travel.

I well remember, years ago, in making the visit, on arriving at a home near the noon hour, the deacons were invited and urged to take dinner with the family. Even the horse was fed. Some times the visit, extended to all day, the evening meal was provided, not at the same home, but at another home, on their route. After the coming of the telephone, appointments and provisions were provided for, in advance.

Keep in mind, when comparing the past with the present, those making the visit years ago, did not have cars with lights and heaters. Very few, if any roads were paved. Many Lovefeasts were observed in the winter, the visits being made in the winter months also. Church membership being made up, mainly of farmers, the visit and Communion were planned during the farmers' off season.

Upon arriving at a home, the deacons make a friendly visit, then they explain that they are conducting the Annual Church Visit.

The visit is not taken lightly. It is an important work of the Church. It was and is designed to promote peace, love and unity. Without UNION, there could hardly be a COMMUNION. Neither would the Communion be beneficial, if eaten unworthily. I Cor. 11:27.

If any member is having a problem concerning their faith, or a misunderstanding with another member, the deacons encourage him to relate his problem. The deacons try to find a solution, but if they can not, the matter is presented to the full official board. Often, by each party applying Matthew 18, the matter is disposed of and that is the end of it.

Liberty is granted to each member to offer suggestions which they believe would benefit the Church by their adoption.

The following questions are then asked of each member:

1. Are you still in the faith of the Gospel, as you declared when you were baptized?
2. Are you, as far as you know, in peace and union with the Church?
3. Will you still labor with the Brethren for an increase in Holiness, both in yourself and others?

Those making the visit are happy when the members answer in the affirmative.

At the conclusion of the visit, a scripture is read and explained, followed by prayer which concludes the visit. The average visit is not concluded in a few minutes.

Those making the visit report to the entire Official Board. Matters needing further attention are cared for. Every effort is made that each member surrounding the Lord's table will eat worthily, through the Grace of God, and that by partaking of the emblems of the shed blood and broken body of Christ be strengthened Spiritually.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." I Cor. 11:26.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1931

A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH

D. W. Hostetler

We must study this subject with the utmost care, especially a few texts of Scripture, as we shall come to them.

1. The essential nature of the spiritual life of the church. This is not altogether a Scriptural term, but the Book speaks about the "life more abundant", a "spirit-filled life", "the consecrated life" and "entire sanctification", "the life hid in Christ", and "men after God's own heart." Now, the spiritual life of the church is no higher than the spiritual life of the people composing the church. Sometimes we wonder why the spirituality of the church gets to a low ebb. About all we need to do is to turn the mirror of God's eternal truth on ourselves and we can see why.

The spirit-filled life is the operation and activities of the spirit of God in our hearts and souls; so the spiritual life of the church is that condition of heart and life in which the Holy Spirit has continuously, and in all free course, has an unhindered way. There are so many conditions and things we allow that hinder the operation of the Holy Spirit of God. We may step over the line into liberalism and draft things into our system of activities that hinder the Spirit. We may step over the line in the other extreme and hinder the Holy Spirit's operation. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit leads into truth, and no other way. This is simply the life in which the spirit is not hindered. When we say "continuous" we mean continuous to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, and this involves a continuous denial of the self-life, and a continuous "no" to the carnal life.

One or the other must give way, so there is a continuous battle to be fought. Paul explains, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." In this text it is seen that there is a constant warfare in every individual between the flesh and the spirit, and the one must give way. It is said that, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Neither can we serve two masters at the same time."

Paul in Romans 6 explains it as a life never yielding to sin. On this point he has this wonderful teaching: "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." Paul evidently means the gospel for he speaks in the present tense, and he recognizes the fact of this warfare in Christian life. But Paul further says, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." There is a battle to be fought in the heart, the arena, and the victory comes through our Lord Jesus Christ. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Paul further says: "And the very God of Peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be presented blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." It is not possible to live so that you will not be censured, for even Christ was censured for doing good. Some folks do likewise today, but it is possible to live to that standard so we do not give occasion for censure. Jude presents it another way: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." To walk in the Spirit as Paul directs will keep us from falling and finally will present us faultless in the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

2. The manifestation of the Spirit-filled church. The proof is twofold:

(a) In life and character. That means it will manifest itself in service in that the spirit has unhindered possession and full operation of heart and soul, and makes itself known in service. The best way to instill the great principles of Christianity into a man's heart is to get by the side of him and live it into him. People recognize that the apostles were uneducated men, but they knew that they had been with Jesus for Jesus had told them that when the Spirit of truth would come upon them he would bring all things to their remembrance, "whatsoever I have said to you." Here it is manifested in their lives and that too by the Holy Spirit of God having full unhindered possession and control. They preached the gospel, not with man's wisdom, but in power and demonstration of the Holy

Spirit. They were assembled together and were filled with the Holy Spirit. They prayed, with such power that the very foundation of the devil was shaken.

So to sum it all up, the eternal principles of holiness that revealed to man in the Book of God must be applied to, and brought to bear upon, the circumstances of our daily lives, by the Holy Spirit himself operating, controlling, illuminating, and enabling the natural powers of the soul to live soberly and righteously.

3. Shall we maintain this standard of spiritual life in the church? We read in the Book that we are to build up ourselves on our most holy faith, and pray in the Holy Ghost, and keep ourselves in the love of God. Jesus further says: "As the father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." We continue in him by keeping his commandments.

We shall be able to maintain this Spiritual standard in the church, by renewing of the mind, by studying God's word, and meditating in his truth, and by continuing in prayer. Let me conclude by raising this question: What about the Dunkard Brethren in the light of this consideration?

NEVER MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN

John 7:45-46, "Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."

There has never been, nor will there ever be, anyone like Jesus. No one ever spoke like Jesus spoke. When the multitudes were leaving Him, He asked the disciples, "Will ye also go away?" Peter, always ready to speak what was in his heart, said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." No one ever spoke those words to Peter before. Those words were Spirit and they were Life. They flowed from a fountain of Living Water.

If you are out in the woods and get thirsty, you soon can tell which is the Living Water. Water allowed to let stand will get stagnant; it will get foul-smelling and fill with algae. But Living Water is moving. It is flowing. It is clear and cold and pure to the taste. It truly quenches the thirst.

This was the conversation of Jesus. His words were water to dry and barren souls. His words were meat to the hungry. He gave hope to those without it. John said if all His deeds were written down the whole world could not contain the words. No wonder people were attracted to His life and work. But after a while the words got hard. People had to count the cost of serving Him. There would be persecution and maybe even loss of life. Beloved people

and things would have to be given up. In a matter of days the triumphant entry into Jerusalem had diminished to those original twelve. When He bore our punishment on the cross, only John and His mother, Mary, were present with Him. Even on the cross His words were profound. "It is finished", He said, as He bowed His head. The Old Testament had expired upon His death, and the New Testament was begun.

After He ascended back into Heaven the Holy Spirit took over: converting and teaching men and fueling them to teach all nations. Before John the Baptist there had been hundreds of years in which the voice of God was not heard. Before the Judges men did what was right in their own eyes, because God was not speaking then either. In Jesus was found all the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form. When God spoke in the Beginning He scared the people and they ran away. So He spoke through men. From then on man operated on a cycle of Bad Times, which brought repentance and Good Times, which caused men to forget God. It was clear men's hearts needed changing. The only one worthy of taking upon Himself the punishment of sin for all the world was Jesus.

When the officers of the court went to apprehend Jesus and bring Him back, they were smitten by His words, "No man ever spake like this man." These words are true even today. See for yourself. Taste and see that the Lord is gracious. Amen.

Brother Lynn Hayes Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore

Editor's Note - As space allows material from this book, published in 1910, will be presented for our readers' Spiritual enjoyment.

The Yellow-Back Book

It was my privilege to attend a protracted meeting, conducted by the Brethren about fifty-two years ago. It was the first meeting of the kind I ever attended, and it did not fail in good results. This meeting was held in a log carpenter shop, among the hills of Southwest Missouri, and was conducted by Elder James R. Gish....

Just how he happened to come into our neighborhood I cannot say, but his preaching produced the turning point in my life, as well as in the lives of some others. With my parents I attended each night, and though I heard everything that was said, still there was but one thing that took hold of my mind, and it clings to me to this

day. It was a simple point, and I present it here for the purpose of emphasizing the importance of lessons being made so simple that even children may understand them.

Bro. Gish was discoursing on the importance of reading the Bible, in order to learn our duty directly from the Book. He said many people refuse to read the Word of God, claiming that their memory is so poor that they cannot keep in mind what they actually read. He said, To test this poor memory business, just give one of these persons a little yellow-back book, and he will read it through, then go up the road to a neighbor and tell the contents of the book from start to finish. These are the kind of people, said Bro. Gish, who claim to have poor memories.

They cannot remember what is in the Bible, but the contents of the little yellow book, that is of no particular value, they can remember just as well as anybody.

To my young mind this was fine logic. So, on the way home that night, walking, the distance being more than a mile, I wondered if I had any memory. I had never read any part of the Bible; in fact, I did not know one thing about Jesus, though I was in my twelfth year. The more I thought over the subject, the more anxious I became to read the Testament, — as we in those days called the New Testament, — for the purpose of testing my memory. Before reaching home I had resolved to read the little volume, if a copy of the book could be had.

The next morning I managed to get hold of a small ten-cent Testament, which I secretly placed in my pocket and read during odd moments. Never before or since have I read a book with such intense interest. My work made it necessary for me to be in the woods from morning till night, and I did the most of my reading while seated on a log or a stump. Every spare moment found me with the little black book in my hand, only wishing that I could put in the whole day reading.

Well, the story about the little, yellow-back book had done its work with me most thoroughly. It had set me to reading, and I soon understood my duty. A few months later I submitted to the washing of regeneration. Bro. Gish went on with his preaching for nearly forty years, and never knew, until a few years before his death, that his simple story drove the truth home to at least one heart.

I now mean to urge the importance of presenting the duty we owe to God in a striking manner. If thus presented it will fall into prepared soil, and be almost certain to grow. These simple incidents take hold upon the young minds, and may cling to them for years before moving them to obedience. Let this be as it may, but one thing is certain, ministers of the Gospel should not under-

rate the value of those points and illustrations calculated to arrest the attention of the young and start them in the right direction. In the presentation of the truth there is nothing so effective as forcible and clear illustrations.

COMING TO JESUS

I wonder, when a soul comes to Jesus are we rejoicing with them? We read in God's Holy Word, one soul is worth more than all the world, do we really believe it? Jesus loves this soul, because He died on the cross to save souls. Now they belong to Jesus Christ, body, soul and spirit. If they live for Him it will last for eternity.

Once we were lost in sin, but Jesus made a way we could be redeemed. He lifted us out of the mirey clay and put our feet on the solid rock. He shed His precious blood, so we could be redeemed.

Jesus has told us that Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His words, shall not pass away. The things we have here in our natural life will soon fade away. Let us be strong in the Lord, praying each day for help from on High. He will bless us if we are true to Him.

When we accepted Jesus as our Saviour our burden of sin rolled away. Jesus will guide us, if we ask Him for help, not just for today but every day. If we call upon Jesus He will help us and no temptations, beyond our power to resist, will befall us. Remember all the blessings we receive come from Christ's bountiful hand. We need His help to keep us on the straight and narrow way. Oh, the joy we receive as we become a child of God.

Now are we going to let others do the work Christ expects us to do? Let us go out into the harvest and win souls for Christ. The beloved Church needs helpers to gather in the harvest. There are many souls who would come to Christ if some one loved them enough to speak to them about their lost condition. Are we willing to pick up the work or are we leaving it to others? Are we willing to take up the cross and win souls for Him? Are we willing to go into service whether the job is big or small?

Oh, how wonderful it would be if we could be here when Christ came for His Bride. There will be no more tears, no sickness, no more sad farewells.

Remember dear ones, now is the time. Perhaps you will never have another chance to accept Christ. When Christ calls you, do not turn Him away but give Him your whole heart and start working for Him.

Think of our loved ones Over There waiting for us. We will meet them if our feet are on the solid rock. Christ never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Remember we are the world's Bible. We must, as the children of Christ watch our every move, so unchurched people will have a pattern to follow. Let us do all we can so the Dear Lord receives honor and praise. Then worldly people can see we are serving the Lord. Through our influence they too will want to follow in our footsteps and be able at the end to have a home in Heaven above.

Sister E. M. Alltus

OBITUARY

CROWDER WILT

Bro. Henry Crowder Wilt was born March 26, 1920, in Fairview, Maryland and passed away in the Aultman Hospital, Canton, Ohio, on April 19, 1991, at the age of 71 years.

He was an army veteran of World War II and had resided in North Canton, Ohio, for the past forty-one years. He retired from Republic Steel in 1977 after twenty-seven years of employment there. He was a member of the Orion Dunkard Brethren Church.

He is survived by his wife, Myrtle, of the home, two daughters, Mrs. Merle (Judith) West, of Virginia Beach, Virginia and Ada Zimmerman of Canton, Ohio; two granddaughters, one sister, Mrs. Irvin (Leona) Broadwater of Canton, Ohio, two brothers, Harry M. Wilt of Canton, Ohio and Forrest R. Wilt of Florida.

Services were conducted in the Karlo and Sons Funeral Home on April 22, 1991, by Elder Harley Flory, assisted by Pastor Dale Rulon and Elder William Carpenter. Burial was in the Sunset Hills Memory Garden.



When Aaron entered the most holy place, he was bound to carry the names of the tribes of Israel upon his shoulders and upon his breast — on his shoulders, in token that he bore the burden of their wickedness and their infirmities; upon his breast, in token of his love and care for them as next his heart. Such a High Priest is our Advocate. "We have not a High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." He died to make satisfaction. He lives to make intercession. We are on His shoulders, to have our burdens borne for us. We are near His heart, that He may both die and live for us. It is a most glorious thought: we have in Heaven One we can think of, know, believe, love, delight in; One whom no accident can disable, no quarrel can estrange, no death remove: for He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NARROW WAY

Just the straight gate and narrow way
Will lead you up to heaven.
You only get there through Jesus
And the Word He has given.
You must believe He is God's Son;
Repent from your ways of sin.
Have faith and obey His commands,
Being washed from sin within.
Don't think your faith will not be tried;
You'll be tempted many times.
But a crown of life will be yours
If you endure the rough climbs.
For a Christian's life is not smooth —
There are barriers all along.
When you have pain, stress, or sorrow,
God will help you to be strong.
Live a holy life for Jesus.
So few go through the straight gate;
Serve Him now, while you have the chance.
Tomorrow may be too late.

Sister Irene Stout
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Wabash, IN 46992

PATTERNS

Seamstresses and woodworkers are very familiar with patterns. Whether the pattern is a commercially printed pattern or just some pencil lines to guide the cutting of the various pieces needed, it is needed so all the pieces will fit together just as they should.

Many have thought they could get along without using a pattern. They would trust their keen eyesight or prior experience. All probably went well for awhile but when it came time to put it all together, it just didn't fit as precisely as it should have. The original pattern must be followed if all is to fit, a copy of the pattern will work for a few cuts, but eventually there will be deviations from the original, so at the last, all will not be as tight fitting as should be.

God always has provided patterns for His people. When God told Noah to construct the ark, He gave Noah precise instructions for building it. He specified the variety of wood to be used, as well as the various dimensions of that ship. He gave the pattern concerning the door and window and other arrangements throughout the boat. He provided for their safety by telling Noah to use pitch to make it seaworthy. By following these specific instructions, Noah not only provided for a safe voyage but he also was preaching to his neighbors. He was not only building a boat in a land that did not know rain, but he was building it according to God's plan. He was giving a double witness to those around him. That is a good program for us to employ today.

After the Children of Israel had left Egypt, God gave Moses many specific instructions concerning the practices that they were to follow in worshipping Him. They were told to do certain things and they were commanded to abstain from other things. God gave

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Moses especially detailed instructions concerning the fabrication of the Tabernacle. He gave Moses a pattern and He explicitly told him to follow it to the letter. Moses might have thought of other ways to arrange the walls or the furniture inside, but God had a plan for him to follow.

God insisted on the Tabernacle being built according to His plan because the Tabernacle and its various parts were patterns or symbols of Christ, the Church and other Spiritual elements which would be fully revealed in the New Testament. He wanted Israel to not only worship Him but to look forward to the plan of salvation that would be delivered by His Son. Today we can look back to Christ and see that He is needed in our lives so we can have the relationship that God wants with us. He wanted the people of Old Testament times to look forward to Christ as the basis of their salvation also. But they could not look to Christ as we can, because He had not been revealed yet. So they could only see Him as He was revealed to them through the symbols shown them in the design and construction of the Tabernacle.

Within the Book of Hebrews much is written about the various symbols of the Old Testament Law and Tabernacle. These patterns of "better things to come" were all that they had. By being obedient to these patterns they could look unto the coming Messiah, even if they did not fully understand all that was entailed in their obedience. But these symbols, as helpful as they were, were still just patterns. These patterns were superceded by the real thing when Christ came and fully established the plan of salvation. The symbols then were no longer needed. They had done their appointed task. They were replaced by the ordinances and commandments delivered to the Church.

There is no need for Christians to turn to the Old Law for their introduction to Christ. He has come, so the patterns no longer are profitable. Although we may not understand all that is asked of us, like Israel, we can follow as we are instructed and we will be doing the right thing. While following we will be giving ourselves an opportunity to learn more. Obedience shows a spirit of humility. The humble spirit can be taught.

The Christian's pattern is revealed in his name. The name Christian means, "one who follows Christ". So the Christian's pattern is Jesus Christ. The New Testament many times advises the believer to be like Him. Being like Him implies a knowledge of Him, as revealed through the Word of God, and a willingness to follow the commandments and adopt the attitudes of Jesus. He has given us a pattern to follow in our relationship with God and our dealings with our fellow men. If we put into practice what we

know of His desire for our lifestyles, we will be careful to follow closely the pattern we have been given.

The pattern for your life is in the Bible. Are you cutting your life according to that pattern?

COUNTERFEITING BIBLE STANDARDS

Over the years there has been a tremendous change in the manner in which, we, particularly, in America, live. Family picture albums, past news items, magazine items and other media from years back, definitely depict a closer family relationship than what exists today.

I recall one picture on the cover of a magazine showing parents with two children, strolling down a country road, hand in hand, together. Each of their facial expressions exuded happiness and contentment.

In our day, the family is splintered and broken. Webster states that a family consists of the parents and children of a household. The Bible plainly teaches the responsibility of each member to every other member. Husbands to wives, wives to husbands, children to parents and parents to children.

In addition to the Bible detailing the relationship between the members, it also makes plain, that the husband and father is to be the bread winner and the mothers are to be "keepers at home." Where such homes exist, the children are well cared for, properly taught and turn out to be an honor to their parents and a blessing to the community.

J. Edgar Hoover made a frank statement years ago, and it has stuck with me ever since. "Families that pray together, stay together." When husband and wife commit themselves together in marriage, as the Bible specifically states, "Until death do us part." One time, not too long ago, there was a stigma to being divorced and remarried. Years back, we did not know or hear about homosexuals.

Times have changed. I quote from NEWSWEEK, Special Edition, "The Twenty-First Century Family" which makes that statement clear. "The typical family, and the values it represents, receives short shift."

Many families today consist of one parent, trying to maintain a home for themselves and children, if they have any. Divorce, infidelity and death are some of the reasons. Often, when there are two parents, they are both working. The children are cared for in a day-care center or have to maintain a latch-key existence. Society looks upon a mother who stays home to raise her children as odd. But not so, by the Word of God.

Not too many years back, father saw to it, that the entire family regularly attended church services. It was a guiding factor in maintaining a Christian home. This has also changed over time. Church attendance and hearing the Word of God proclaimed is no longer an essential in the lives of many people.

This weakness in families has taken its toll. The item in the Newsweek further states, "Demographers expect fully half of all first marriages to fail." "Second marriages are more doomed, with six out of ten collapsing." "One out of every four children are being raised by a single parent." "Twenty-two percent are born out of wedlock and a third of those are born to teen-agers." Such statistics do not speak well of so-called Christian America.

Again, quoting Newsweek as to what constitutes a family in 1990: "Single parents, divorced or never married, with natural or adopted children." "Extended step-families, formed by "survivors" of ruined earlier marriages." "Homosexual male partners raising adopted children." "Single women having babies by donor insemination." "Homosexual women becoming impregnated artificially so they can have children with their lesbian partners."

What must our Heavenly Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ think of humanity when they look down from their throne in Heaven? Jesus wept, when He looked over Jerusalem, on another occasion and, saw the unwillingness of the people to accept His principles, "But they WOULD NOT", I feel certain He was greatly disappointed. I believe that as God and Christ observe the wickedness of the day, that they are deeply grieved.

Some families attempt to make the best of their tragic situation. If the children of a one parent family turn out well, it is a credit to that parent. Statistics bear the fact that there are more such relationships doomed from the start.

The splintered families today are running like a badly tuned automobile engine. We can see the evidence in all kinds of misbehavior. Love is not there as a binder. Child abuse and neglect, women and children forced to resort to shelters, for the protection of their lives besides leaving their children in a squalor.

There are innumerable children who never personally knew but one parent. This is a disservice to the children. Too often, they are raised by surrogates in day care centers.

In a certain school two boys had the same last name. "Are you twins, the teacher asked. "No, we were born three months apart." One answered, "I am not sure," when asked if they were half brothers. "We had the same father, but I live with the second mother and he lives with the third mother." The other boy, seriously said, "It was easier when we were cousins."

The above named are just a drop in the bucket compared to the many counterfeiting and substitutings modern men have made in place of accepting the Bible as God demands. Counterfeiting the Word is just as sinful as counterfeiting money. Both are wrong and worthless. Both will receive a just penalty.

Society willingly accepts such evil doings of such a divergent collection of relationships. Everything is accepted from divorce to homosexual conduct. Society, in general, ignores Biblical teachings. Those individuals and congregations who follow God's principles are looked upon as irrelevant and old fogies. To challenge the validity of relationships that pass themselves off as families is considered as being narrow-minded and bigoted.

Even the courts of our land have recognized deviations, setting standards that permits homosexuals to declare themselves as "Families" and to adopt children.

I like the words of one writer, whom I quote as follows: "You can call homosexual households "Families" and you can define "families" any way you want to, but you cannot fool God or Mother nature. A family is a mommy and a daddy and THEIR children.

Those who endorse broad definitions of the family substitutes counterfeits for the Bible standard. And like all fakes, they can never deliver what they claim.

According to the news media, homosexuals are hired in the government and some church denominations accept such as ministers. Pray mightily that such corrupt leaven does not leaven entire Christendom. WHY? II John 1:7 states, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. THIS IS A DECEIVER AND AN ANTICHRIST."

Galatians 6:7, "BE NOT DECEIVED; GOD IS NOT MOCKED:..."

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"And of some having compassion, making a difference:" Jude 22.

Oh, to make a difference! When we think of the many millions of people who have come and gone over the years over the vast earth: How many have really made a difference? It is our desire to. Not just to exist in this world for a few short years and then die, passing out of this world and not having anything to show for our stay here, but to mean something to somebody: to pull someone out of the fire; to save someone from the fires of hell.

It is not our desire to aspire to greatness. Many have built empires, great nations, and great religions. But we do not gravitate toward those that build earthly kingdoms. For in building an earthly kingdom you must in reality destroy or absorb other kingdoms. You must tear down in order to build up. But in dealing with spiritual building nothing good is ever harmed. In building up a spiritual house no other stone is harmed. We can build something that lasts forever, and it will not be our building, but God's.

Once there was a man who was forced to carry the cross of Jesus. He was a very fortunate man, though he probably did not think so at the time. But how much more fortunate is the man who is constrained to carry His cross out of love rather than being forced by a Roman spear. We are not building a spiritual kingdom in order to save ourselves. Christ did that. We build so that others might follow the One who first loved us.

Jesus made a difference. Every one of His followers, no matter how small the circumstance or how short the life, makes a difference. If we examine our lives, only what has been done for Christ will make any difference. If we are found in that number having compassion, as Jesus had, we too will make a difference in someone's life. Life is short.

It only took you but a few minutes to read this message, a minute or two more to ponder it. Now what?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BIG AMBITIONS

God desires that we as Christians do great things for Him... to soar into the heavens like a mighty eagle. We are designated as Christians to perform tasks that are beyond our self imposed limitations. We need to follow a pathway of excellence and move toward perfection in the faith. Of course it is much easier to limit our spiritual activity and be nonproductive or to sit down and let someone else do the job. But, there is no satisfaction in that. The nondemanding Christian life is truly boring.

I encourage you to a life of ambitious leadership in the service of the Lord. Give up your small ambitions and allow yourself to be drawn by the Spirit of God into a rich and deep life that will "cut a swath" in the midst of the mediocrity of our age. You CAN make a difference. Your help is needed to bring our church to a new dimension of holiness and productivity.

Now that I have presented the challenge, let me say this. I am also challenging you to a life of sacrifice. To achieve excellence for the Lord carries a heavy price tag. There is a need for hard work and endurance. You are going to have to bear the cup that Christ bore and carry His Cross. You are going to have to restrict yourself in your activities that embrace the world and the world's philosophies. You are going to have to get involved in a fight against principalities and powers.

You are going to have to come out of early retirement and resolve to use your precious hours of life to build up the church. It is a bit frustrating to think that a Christian would think of "retirement" at any age when it comes to the work of the Lord. In the time when one is least burdened with the work and responsibility of caring for a family... man decides to climb out of the battle and relax. When experience would allow him to be at his highest and best... ambition seems to lag behind and mediocrity sets in. The "old rut" becomes comfortable and construction gives way to bare maintenance. I encourage you, rather, to GET GOING and KEEP GOING. Don't allow yourself to be comfortable in past accomplishments. With all of the strength God gives you, take the responsibility to make every day exciting in the service of the Lord.

The Bible talks of dreams and visions. Be a dreamer... and make a dramatic contribution in the Kingdom. Move beyond your "plateau of comfort" and into an ultimate mountain climbing experience. You say that you just can't do things well, you are frail, you make mistakes, you are too young... or too old, then you will never have the opportunity to see the greatness of what God can do. If you are willing to accept better rather than best you will not achieve your full potential in the Lord.

Have you forgotten that God is sovereign? He is not only in control but He is an action God. You have invested much of your life in His service but have never given Him your all. Won't you now make the decision to invest yourself fully in His work... fighting the fight, running the course, living the life?

Brother Len Wertz

DIVISIONS AMONG US

Exodus 8:23a, "And I will put a division between my people and thy people:..."

John 7:43, "So there was a division among the people because of him."

Romans 16:17, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

While we are personally in favor of practicing our historical tradition of separate seating for the sisters and the brethren, there are some other divisions among us that cause us to have a heavy heart. It is not at all important what I think concerning this subject and perhaps it is not all that important what you may think. But it is very important what God has to say on this subject. We pray that He may give me wisdom, through the Holy Spirit, as we attempt to put our thoughts on paper.

The division spoken of in Exodus 8:23 was between the Israelites and the Egyptians. We see Old Testament Israel as being a picture of the Church and Egypt as being a picture of the world. God told us in II Corinthians 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." Verse 18 which finishes the sentence, makes this even stronger. "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." It is not our desire to tell our elders and ministers what to preach. This should be the work of the Holy Spirit. But we confess that we are concerned with the seeming trend of avoiding specifics in favor of generalities. If our young people (as well as adults) never hear preached what is sin and what is worldly we will not have any guidelines to follow!

John 7:43 tells us of divisions among the people because of Jesus Christ. Brothers and sisters it is time that we stop being apologetic about those things that we practice to honour our Lord and stand firm on our Brethren beliefs. When you practice such things as the wearing of the prayer veil, literally washing the saint's feet, and refusing to wear the styles of the world you will find there will be a division among the people who claim the name Christian. Another practice that will cause division is our stand on politics. Brothers and sisters you will find yourself to be classed as un-American, un-caring, and even cultic if you take a stand against having a flag in the meetinghouse and refuse to vote. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, taught us, "... My kingdom is not of this world:..." He also answered Pilate, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." Let us hear HIS VOICE and refuse to take up arms to kill a human being.

We warn you about being influenced by the radio preacher who will tell you to inform your Senator or Congressman that you are opposed to a gun control bill and to vote in favor of it. In the first place if you own a gun with the intent of using it on a human being

it would be better if you would get rid of it. Scripture can be twisted to support any human doctrine that might come along. But where in the New Testament are we commanded to take a human life? I can show you many where it is forbidden! By example neither our Lord Jesus Christ or any of His true followers ever took up arms to kill. It was the apostate State churches that originated and spread this false practice.

In Romans 16:17 we are warned to mark those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned. The false teaching that "doctrine divides, the Spirit unites" has caused havoc among God's people. Not that the saying does not contain truth, but the application of this truth is contrary to Scripture. Doctrine does divide. It divides us from false teaching and false practices. We believe "the doctrine which ye have learned" from our Brethren forefathers was, for the most part, ordained by God. The "plumb line" that can be used is what has replaced the things we have forsaken. Are they more in line with church principles or more in line with the world? Do they put you in the category of an "Israelite" or an "Egyptian?"

One of the teachings that should cause great unity between the people of God is the reality of the second coming of Jesus Christ. Those who deny this doctrine should be "marked" and "avoided." Sadly, it has caused division between those who accept this great truth. The hows, whens and related happenings have caused great divisions. Some would even divide the true Church during the end times. There is a teaching that "unbelieving Christians" (whatever that is) will be forced to stay in Heaven instead of reigning with Christ in a millennial kingdom. Revelation 21:8 says that the unbelieving, along with others, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. Who are we to believe? The Word of God or radio preachers?

But this does point to a division that will come either at death or at the second coming if this should be first. God, not man, will do the final dividing. We have a need to be born again by the blood of Jesus Christ which we believe is symbolized in trine immersion baptism. Then we must be obedient to His Word. Will the final division find you in Heaven or Hell? God has given every man and woman a choice. What will yours be? For those already saved, hold fast until that day, be it death or rapture.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 15, 1931

GOD IS CALLING

J. F. Britton

In the 16th chapter of Numbers, we have a sad and deplorable scene and record of anarchy and dissension, in which we see the awful results of a wilful disregard and disobedience of God's laws and commandments.

To get the full force and a clear conception of the subject under consideration, the reader should read carefully the whole chapter, and note God's "Call" in verses 21 and 24: "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. Speak unto the congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. Speak unto the congregation, saying Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan and Abiram."

In response to this "Call", Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him, and he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. So they got up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the Lord hath sent me to do all these works: for I have not done them of mine own mind. If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the Lord hath not sent me, but if the Lord make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye understand that these men have provoked the Lord.

"And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them; and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them; and they perished from among the congregation."

What an awful execution and a retribution for arrogance and wilful disobedience to God's laws and commands that was, but who will be so presumptuous as to assume to question the majesty, justice and wisdom of the Eternal God whose laws and commands are immutable. Thus we see that the Divine visitation of God's wrath was incurred by refusing to be subject to the laws and commands of God, through Moses.

The three first verses of the chapter under consideration disclose the arrogancy and stubbornness of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, and their colleagues of "two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown", when they arrayed themselves against the mandates of God, "That they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribbon of blue", as a continual reminder that they should not disobey and go counter to God's instructions. (See the last four verses of chapter 15.) Therefore this thrilling record of Israel stands upon the Sacred Page, as a warning, and an incentive that we should not lust after evil things, and go counter to the "thus saith the Lord." Hence, it is only a delusion and folly to assume that one can disobey and go counter to the mandates of the Eternal God, and not suffer the consequences.

And now, inasmuch as God is eternal, infallible, omnipotent, and in "whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"; who "is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart", before they are expressed either in word or action; yes, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son." Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect to heed the mandates of Him who speaks with Divine authority.

It is, therefore, reasonable, logical, and safe that the followers of Christ ought to heed and "observe all things whatsoever" are taught in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And Jesus is calling through His Gospel, saying, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial, or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols, for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (II Cor. 6:14-18.) This call is both psychological and urgent that the people of God cannot affiliate and confederate with the various organizations of the world.

In the 18th chapter of Revelation, the Lord is "calling" loud and urgent from heaven, "and I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues, for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." By virtue of this Call, coming direct from heaven, it is imperative, and should appeal to every rational man and woman who has an interest in their greatest and highest welfare.

In the last chapter of Revelation, we have the last, "Call and message" of mercy the world will ever get: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come; and let him that heareth, say, Come; and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Dear reader, have you heeded and responded to the Call of Jesus by making your "calling and election sure with Him"?

Oh God, breathe upon thy people, and quicken their hearts with the Holy Spirit, that they may reverence Thee in all of thy requirements. Amen.

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Sister Clara Gunderman

When we think upon this subject, we think of Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews and a teacher of Israel, also a member of the Sanhedrin. In Nicodemus we find a noble character, with a simple love of the truth, mingled with the fear of man. He had a great desire to know Jesus, for he knew that one who could do the wonderful miracles that Jesus did, could not do them except God be with him: a simple love of the Truth. He came to Jesus by night, no doubt having a great longing to see and talk to Him, but choosing to conceal his visit from the other members of the Sanhedrin, showing that he might be fearful of man.

Nicodemus was seeking Jesus, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" Matt. 7:7. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. This was something Nicodemus could not comprehend, that unless a man be regenerated in the spirit of his

mind, having his will and affections changed from earthly to spiritual objects, he cannot see the Kingdom of God, which is holy and spiritual in its nature and enjoyments.

Some of the characteristics of a changed being we find in James 3:17-18. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruits of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." So if we have that wisdom that comes only from God, that gives us that Christ-like nature, with the spirit of truth ruling our lives, then we will be as the Apostle Peter tells us, II Peter 1:8, "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Nicodemus could not see how this being reborn was possible, then Jesus explained it to him, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5. This regeneration is not of a natural, but of a spiritual nature. If we do not possess that spiritual nature here, we will not be subject of divine glory, which consists not in earthly splendor. "That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit, Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:6-7.

The time came when Jesus was crucified on Calvary. Joseph, a disciple of Jesus from Arimathaea, came to take Jesus' body down from the cross, and with him we find Nicodemus. John 19:39, "And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight." It appears from this conduct of Nicodemus that he was fully convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel. May God help us to live in the spirit of truth, here, that we may enjoy the blessings of Heaven, when our journey on earth is ended. (Did you ever think of the joy, satisfaction and blessings, which Nicodemus no doubt missed because of his fear of man, hiding his honest belief? "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." III John 8.)

Selected from June 1, 1956 Bible Monitor

FATHER

Used to wonder why father never had much time to play.
 Used to wonder why He'd rather work each minute of the day.
 Used to wonder why He never loafed along the road.
 Can't recall a time when ever father played while others worked.
 Father did not dress in fashion, sorted hated clothes a new.

Style with him was not a passion, He had other things to view.
Boys seem blind today, about what is going on day by day,
But I have no way of knowing what became of father's pay.
All I know is when I needed shoes, I got them on the spot,
Everything for which I pleaded somehow father always got.
I wondered season after season, why he never took a rest.
All that I might be the reason then I never even guessed.
Oh, I saw his cheeks were getting very paler,
But I could not understand why; and his body, frailer.
Then at last I saw him die, rest now had come,
All his work was ended; calm was written on his brow.
Father's life was big and splendid, now I understand.

- E. A. Guest

Selected by Sister E. M. Alltus

MARRIAGE

BECK - ANDREWS

Sis. Theresa Beck of Bernville, Pennsylvania, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Frank Beck and Bro. Mark Andrews of Kansas City, Missouri, son of Bro. and Sis. Larry Andrews were united in Holy Matrimony, May 4, 1991 by Elder Eugene Kauffman at the home of the bride.

They are residing at 5305 E. 140th St., Grandview, MO 64030.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

The new address of Bro. Mark Andrews is 5305 E. 140th St., Grandview, Missouri 64030.

HART, MICHIGAN

The Hart Dunkard Brethren Mission Point will be holding revivals July 14 through 21, 1991, with Bro. Tom St. John as evangelist. The meetings will close with a Lovefeast July 20, the Lord willing.

We would invite any who can to come worship with us.

Sister Beverly St. John

NOTICE

We here at Bethel Dunkard Brethren School are in need of teachers for 91-92 school term. Any interest please contact school or call Verling Wolfe 717-933-4246.

Pray the Lord will direct and fill our need. Thank you!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1991

July 7 - Being Subject One to Another - I Peter 5:1-7.

1. What is it to be "subject" to another?
2. How does humility bless our relationships with God and man?

July 14 - Resisting the Devil - I Peter 5:8-14.

1. Why is resisting the devil so important?
2. How can the devil be resisted?

July 21 - Partakers of the Divine Nature - II Peter 1:1-11.

1. What is the "divine nature"?
2. How can we be partakers?

July 28 - A sure Word of Prophecy - II Peter 1:12-21.

1. What makes this prophecy sure?
2. What admonition is given to us concerning this prophecy?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1991

July 7 - Christ's Prayer - John 17:1-26.

1. What did Jesus give as the definition of eternal life? verse 3.
2. List the qualities Christ prayed would be a part of the church.

July 14 - Good Names - Prov. 22:1, Ecc. 7:1, Acts 6:2-4, III John 1-14.

1. What is the value of a good name?
2. How is a good name gained or lost?

July 21 - Believer's Walk - Rom. 6:4, I John 2:6, Gal. 5:16, Eph. 5:2, I John 1:7, Eph. 4:1-3.

1. What is it to "walk in newness of life"?
2. How can we improve our walk with the Lord?

July 28 - Liberty - Isa. 61:1-3, John 8:31-36, Rom. 8:16-21, Gal. 5:13, I Pet. 2:13-16.

1. What is spiritual liberty?
2. How can we abuse this liberty?

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NO. 13

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD LOVES THEM

God loves the little flowers, Wherever they may grow,
In bright and lovely gardens, Or nooks that none may know;
He blesses them with beauty, Of fragrance and of love,
And fills them in the morning, With His refreshing dew.

God loves the little sparrows, And guides them as they fly;
He feeds them in His kindness, Lest they should faint and die;
He teaches them their music, That may tell His praise
Among the morning branches, In summer's golden days.

God loves the little streamlets, And sends them on their way,
Thro' daisy fields and meadows, Where we delight to play;
He keeps them clear and shining, While running to the sea,
And makes them leap with gladness, And sing right merrily.

God loves the little children, Much more than bird or brook,
Or sweetest scented flowers, However fair they look;
He sent His Son to save us, With His most precious blood,
That He might be forever The best loved works of God.

- W. J. Mathews

LOVE

"One size fits all," might be a description attached to love. It does not matter whether we are young or old, small or big, or of any other description, we all need and want to be loved.

Love has several varying forms. Each is different, but each is a bond between the people involved. There is the love of the wife for her husband; the husband for his wife. There is the love of parents for children; the children for parents. There is the love between siblings, which may not be very evident during childhood but becomes stronger during adulthood. There is a love between friends and neighbors. Then there is Christian love shared by those who have been loved by God and return that love by sharing it with others who have received that love.

All of these loves are based upon a mutual regard for each other and desire for the well-being of the other person in the relationship. Love never seeks to harm or to exploit the other person. Love may be expressed many ways, but never can it be expressed through immorality or illegality. Love sometimes demands tough decisions and even correction.

Love as popularly advertised is not love but lust. It becomes an excuse for immorality. Love becomes a means of selling products by creating advertising images that cause people to identify with the desire and the scene that is pictured. Some advertising become very blatant in its dependence upon sex which is disguised as love. This use of love is not love although the word, "love" may be used frequently. It is often used as a password for sex. Much of modern literature is based upon this theme. Books are written with a fine veneer of love covering a sexual encounter. These books

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usually promote the idea that as long as there is "love" any activity is approved and healthy. A Biblical view of the situation is refused and a carnal solution is applauded. This presentation of "love" has an unhealthy and immoral effect upon those who read those books, because it creates a standard in their minds, which is foreign to God's standard.

Love as expressed by parents sometimes has to take the shape of discipline. There is a human tendency to equate love with softness and always yielding to others. But there are times when that love can best be expressed by firmness and a refusal to abandon what is right. By sticking to the right and demanding children to conform to that standard will teach them the right way to meet the situations of life, even after they are no longer under parental control. To yield to children's desires is not always a kindness but a disservice to them. For their wishes may not be what is the best for them. Parents should not encourage their children's foolishness but teach them a better way. That may require discipline so they will know what the right way is.

God has a love for all mankind that caused Him to do more than anyone else could do for the people of this earth. He made the supreme sacrifice by giving His Son as the propitiation for the sins of mankind. He wants all to accept that sacrifice, so none would have to suffer the consequences of eternal punishment. His love has made the way of acceptance easy and has broadly publicized it through the Bible and its proclamation in the Church.

God's love is a forgiving love but at the same time it is a love that wants the best for those who accept it. That best cannot be achieved by ignoring the requirements He has established for His people in His Word. He wants obedience. He desires that it be given as an expression of the love that His believing children would have for Him. His love is first given to those who are not in any way deserving of it, but once they have accepted it, it is expected that they will demonstrate their love through their willing obedience of His Word.

The Church is made up of those who have received the love of God. They are committed to carrying out their Heavenly Father's plan. They want to do what is right. Although they may not understand all the Church might ask of them, they are willing to follow until the Spirit may teach them a little more so they are able to receive it. Not all who wash feet understand all that there is to know about that ordinance, but by doing so they receive a blessing. When members err, the Church may in love discipline them, so they will know the right way to go in future situations.

Love is a many faceted subject that cannot be fully defined or understood. Although it cannot be fully understood, it can be felt and it can be shared. Have you felt it? Have you shared it?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"I FORGIVE YOU"

Next to the phrase "I LOVE YOU", the phrase "I FORGIVE YOU" contains the most important words in the Christian's vocabulary.

In God's Word, Peter brings up the issue to Jesus when he asks how often he expects a person to forgive another. Jesus' answer is well known to us... "Seventy times seven." I have been confronted with statements like, "I can forgive but I can't forget," or "I can forgive but I will no longer have anything to do with that person." With responses like these we completely miss the point of Christ's teaching on forgiveness.

Jesus taught differently than other religious leaders taught. They (and we) are concerned about dogma. Jesus was concerned about sharing His life and His vision in such a way that meaning would be given to our existence and peace could be a part of our lives as we are on earth preparing for eternity in Heaven.

Jesus was aware that we as humans might well hurt and offend others during our lives. He also knew that we would be hurt and some would even want to destroy us. So He taught us not to place an added burden on others. He decreed not an impossible command but gave us a solution to the most destructive of problems facing our lives. He revealed the key to inner peace and to peace with others. His teaching was for TOTAL forgiveness.

It will seem unique and above human ability when you learn not to allow yourself to take offense when someone deliberately tries to hurt you. Jesus seemed almost incapable of taking offense from the way people treated Him... and they treated Him with rudeness and cruelty. He worked on behalf of the people day after day and most of the time didn't even receive a "thank you." Yet, you do not find Him bitter or vindictive. He always retorted with gentleness and understanding and the same even-temper. He EVEN treated His enemies in this way. They would insult Him one moment and He'd be with them in the next moment working to heal their sick, shed light on the truth or help them to overcome some monumental problem.

A person who is secure within himself or herself is not shaken by the attitudes of others. It is the mark of a small person or a person of a poor self-image to be badly shaken by criticism or unkindness. **JESUS TOOK NO OFFENSE.** He always seemed to understand and even when His enemies stripped Him naked and drove spikes into His hands and feet and exposed Him before the world... His first thought was one of forgiveness. "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."

There is a true story from France that relates the story of forgiveness very well. A wealthy family lived in a beautiful chateau. One of the butlers discovered the family's wealth in the vault under the house and decided to kill everyone in the family so he could possess the treasure. One night he methodically went about this evil deed... only the youngest escaped.

Years later the murderer ended up on Devil's Island for entirely different crimes. The little boy also ended up there but not as a criminal. After being orphaned for years, he finally entered the ministry and was ordained and sent as a chaplain to Devil's Island.

One day, a convict came running into the chaplain's office. "One of the men is dying in the field," he said. The minister went out and found the dying man lying in the dust. He knelt down by his side and rested his head in his lap and asked him if he would have anything he would like to say or if he would like to pray. The man said, no, God would never forgive him anyway because he had been so evil. The minister reassured him that God would forgive a repentant heart. Then the man began to tell the story of the family that lived in the chateau and how he had been their butler and one night destroyed all of the family so he could have their money and how only one little boy escaped. The man finished by saying, "How could God forgive me for such an evil deed?"

The minister looked into the convict's eyes and with tears in his own said, "If I can forgive you, certainly God can forgive you. That was my family, and I am the little boy ... and I forgive you from the bottom of my heart." The two men wept together and as the minister comforted him, the man died in his arms.

This story should touch you concerning the beautiful concept of forgiveness which is taught by Jesus. It is complete and unparalleled... as he holds us in His arms.

This kind of forgiveness will transform your life... it will transform the church. It will heal nations. Take the message of forgiveness seriously as it is the great antidote for much of the sickness that infects our lives today. Understand ultimately that true forgiveness not only means not nursing wounds but it is a continual reaching out to reestablish old and valuable relationships.

Brother Len Wertz

SPIRITUAL AND WORLDLY ENVIRONMENT

There is a grave, world-wide concern regarding the physical destruction and poisoning of our natural resources. We are living in a nation where the air and water are polluted with chemical and bacterial discharges that are detrimental to human life.

Some of our Great Lakes are so polluted with garbage and sewage that people are warned not to drink or bath in this water. It is so poisonous that fish from it are not fit for human consumption. Industries that emit deadly chemicals from their smokestacks are required by law to be equipped with scrubbers. Automobile manufacturers are forced by law to build cars that exhaust fewer contaminants, adding considerable cost to the car buyer. Highway departments, with the aid of many volunteers, gather tons of discards along our highways. The clean-up not only makes the highways more inviting, but, if all that trash were left to deteriorate, it would add to the pollution of our air and water.

There is so much garbage and waste that cities do not know what to do with it. Some have tried incinerating it, some have dumped it in the ocean, resulting in some of it washing up, polluting the shore line. Others have loaded it on big dumpsters, hauling it across several states, which would not accept it, requiring it to be trucked back to where it came from. **THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE ENOUGH OF THEIR OWN.** (Keep that thought in mind). Many more instances could be cited showing that our government, our states, our cities are greatly concerned, as well the general population.

I include with the world environment, also, the **WORLDLY** environment. That natural and world environment effects our natural life, often leading to death.

The **WORLDLY** environment affects our **SPIRITUAL** life, which, if its influences persist, will cause our **SPIRITUAL** death, and bar us from Heaven.

Webster gives one definition of environment as **SURROUNDING INFLUENCE**, that affects our natural lives. I know that this is a serious condition facing the human race. Billions of dollars have been spent in an attempt to clean up our natural environment.

I wish to dwell on the effects of the **WORLDLY ENVIRONMENT**, as pertains to our **SPIRITUAL LIFE**. The pollution of this environment is more deadly than the natural pollution. The natural affects our time here on earth. If we allow the worldly environment to overcome the Spiritual in our lives, we will suffer its effects throughout **ETERNITY**, in the depths of Hell.

Keep keenly in mind that for every good thing God has bestowed upon us, the Serpent, the Devil tries to destroy or at least make his influence so great that much of humanity is lured to his bait. When God created all things He pronounced it "**GOOD.**" He did not create a single evil thing. Satan's efforts are to make his evil appear to humanity as **GOOD.**

I firmly believe that the environment that Adam and Eve lived in was perfect. Every part of their environment was clean, fresh and

new. There was no contamination whatsoever. Only when Satan invaded the Garden did things change. Not that the natural environment in the Garden changed. Satan tempted the mother of all people. Today his allurements and temptations are to be found on public billboards, newspapers, magazines, television and many other forms of news media. All of his designs are to allure people to become highly interested in the environment he has created.

There is a power struggle between the forces of good and evil. Each individual must decide for himself whom he will follow, God or Satan. Joshua of old made his decision, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." That should be the decision of every human being when they reach the age of accountability. Comparatively few make that decision.

God, Christ and the Holy Spirit will teach us and lead us in the path of righteousness. Neither will ever lead us astray. The spiritual environment that leads us is as pure as the natural environment was pure in the Garden of Eden.

Following are a number of examples to illustrate my thought. Nearly all magazines carry advertisements showing women smoking, as though that is the thing for all women to do. The scriptures state, "KEEP THYSELF PURE." It cannot be done and smoke. Marlboro Cigarette ads show a man riding a bronco and smoking, as if that is the way for a man to appear manly. Smoking is a dirty habit and leads to cancer and death. Tobacco companies spend millions of dollars in advertising. When God's Word commands us to greet one another with a holy kiss, He did not intend that it be passed through tar stained lips.

Many people gamble and work lotteries, which is nothing more than gambling. Satan baits the public by making them believe they will win a fortune. The world falls for Satan's bait, but a follower of Christ goes in a much different path. Christians are admonished to "Provide all things honest in the sight of men."

In John 18:30 Jesus states, "My kingdom is not of this world." Theaters and moving picture shows advertise their wares by displaying posters outside their places of business, promoting nudism, over our so-called Christian America are hundreds of nudist colonies, all catering to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. All of the WORLD, all designed to destroy the Spiritual environment.

Which environment are we most interested in? The environment of Satan and to be lost Eternally, or the environment of the Trinity and to be saved for all Eternity?

Drunkenness, robbery, murder, suicide, fornication, adultery, and so forth are all works of Satan and are designed to deceive the very elect, if possible.

As a resident of this Rest Home, I have access to all kinds of information. I make good use of it as far as I am physically able. As a conclusion to this article, I want to quote from a news article dated Washington, D.C.

It is titled "The Newest Morality."

Only thirteen percent of the population of the United States still believe in all ten of the Ten Commandments. A third of all married Americans have an affair. One-fifth of the American children have lost their virginity by the age of thirteen. One out of seven carry a hand gun with them or in their car. One out of every five women have been raped. In a recent poll, seven percent polled, said they would kill a stranger, if enough money was involved.

In a private survey two thousand people answered eighteen hundred questions. The respondents were assured anonymity and completed their questionnaire in privacy. Summarizing, the results of the survey those who authorized the report concluded that America is a nation without a common morality. The report concluded that in this day, Americans are making up their own rules and laws and that there is absolutely no moral consensus in this country... as there was in the 1950s and 1960s. Continuing, the report states that Americans believe their political, business and RELIGIOUS leaders have failed them.

Emphasis was put on this phase of the report, "RELIGION COUNTS FOR LITTLE." Religion plays almost no role in shaping most lives, the study found.

I hesitate to cover the next question, but we all are aware of this prevailing sin. The question was, "What would you like to have more time for? This is the respondents' answer, "SEX." The report indicated that Americans have lost faith in the institution of marriage. Thirty-three percent were not sure they love their spouses. The same percentage had an affair. Only one in three people listed "LOVE" as the reason for their marriage.

I have just touched the tip of the iceberg that is setting the entirely wrong environment for a child of God to overcome.

I am more than persuaded that we, The Dunkard Brethren Church, have the right armour to overcome the adversary of our soul. Let us as a body, unitedly put on the whole armour, in this very wicked and evil day in which we are living.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

GATHER THYSELF IN TROOPS

Micah 5:1, "Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek."

Revelation 12:12b, "... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Revelation 19:14-15, "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

At the very outset we would like to say, lest we be accused of dividing the troops and not rightly dividing the Word of God, that it is not our purpose to argue if the book of Revelation is all future or not. We will allow those much more intelligent and gifted in prophecy to argue such details. We do believe all Scripture has a lesson for us today.

"It is time for all good men to come to the aid of their country," was a typing exercise used in school. It is also the cry that is coming from many pulpits across the land. Gather yourself in troops. Fight for your rights. Vote Christian men into leadership positions. This sounds very reasonable to the carnal mind. It can even be backed up by using Old Testament scripture. While more difficult to do, New Testament scriptures are taken out of context to bolster the argument.

While the Brethren have historically rejected such teaching, they too have encouraged us to gather ourselves into troops. Even as the Church is seen by the majority of theologians as being the bride of Christ, we can think of ourselves as daughters of the founding Church of the New Testament. Our one objective is to further the cause of Christ on earth.

We have an enemy who has laid siege against us. It is the devil who has come down unto us, having great wrath. He wants to rob us of our joy, our peace and even our eternal home in Heaven. I Peter 5:8 warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." Peter also tells us "whom resist stedfast in the faith,..." If Satan can divide the troops he has gained a great victory. Our Brethren traditions have in the past been a source of gathering ourselves into troops. Today we believe Satan is seeking to use our traditions as a means of dividing us into little groups and even individuals standing alone. As Brother David Aungst preached at a

recent Lovefeast service there is a need to stand alone on occasion. But we would hope that standing alone does not mean standing against Brethren traditions. We would hope that it also does not mean thinking more of Brethren traditions than we do of one another. We must face the fact that some of our traditions have become almost non-existent because the majority have decided they are no longer useful or needed. We must also face the fact that some of our traditional stands have been changed by the vote of Annual Conference. This does not mean that our brethren should not preach their convictions. But we believe a vote of General Conference should bring about a spirit of the Acts 15:28. "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;" To have troops you must have order. To have order we must have leadership. We must respect our Elders and ministers as our leaders, who respect the decisions of General Conference.

Micah says, "they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek." The earthly church has smitten the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cheek and spit in His face by ignoring His teachings and refusing to follow His precepts. Unlike the armies which were in Heaven, most will not follow Him. They wish to use His name but, like an unfaithful wife, they give their love to another.

In Revelation it is written, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword." The words of the Lord Jesus Christ cut deeply into the hearts of those willing to respond. It is written, "that with it he should smite the nations:" Why are some nations so opposed to the Word of God? While it is true that some are opposed to all religions, we believe a study of history will reveal that true Christianity has suffered more persecution than any other religion. Even in so called "Christian" nations the Word of God is misused rather than being honored. It is written, "he shall rule them with a rod of iron." There is no bending the Word of God to please mankind. The laws of the land may change and even the rules of the Church but never the Word of God.

"He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." We can gather ourselves into troops for or against God. But God will never be the loser! The unsaved will feel the wrath of God in Hell and all the deserters will join them. Let us gather ourselves in troops and willingly follow our leader, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

ANSWER THE CALL OF GOD

"That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I." I Samuel 3:4.

What a blessed thing to answer the call of God, and the sooner the better. In Ecclesiastes 12:1, Solomon said, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,..." This writer clearly recalls God calling at the tender age of twelve years, but alas, we waited seven more years before we answered Him. All those years: wasted and spent on vain things. How we threw away our life and ruined our health in pursuit of the highs of this world. Our body is in pain today because of the evil we got into. Answering God's call early would have saved so much grief.

Today there is much to interfere with the call of God. So many things take a person's attention away. There is too much noise, so God's voice cannot be heard over the ruckus. In the old days people came to church meetings because it was all there was to do. There was not the constant din of radio and television to drown out the Holy Spirit. It took time to get places. It took time to do simple chores now done by machine. But there was opportunity to think about God and allow Him into the life of an individual. Today the noise exists because the vast majority do not want to even think about God and the punishment reserved for their sins.

Today in the public schools children are not allowed to learn about God. Parents are too busy or disinterested to teach them things about God because their desires are elsewhere. Many churches no longer preach the gospel or give opportunity to get saved. Moses instructed God's people in Deuteronomy 4:9, "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;" In Judaism the most important part of religion was passing it on to the children. A child has to be taught. A child will learn: either the good things of God or those of evil.

And what should we do when God calls? Like Samuel, we must be ready to answer, "Yes, Lord. Here am I." Adam and Eve, after they had sinned, hid themselves when God called. Guilty children, after they have been up to mischief, will hide when their parents call. One prominent author of the last century wrote to one of his correspondents: "I urge you to cast yourself at once, in the simplest faith, upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved". All your true preparation for death is entirely out of yourself, and in the Lord Jesus. Washed in His blood, and clothed upon with His righteousness, you may appear before God divinely, fully, freely, and forever accepted. Salvation is prepared, finished, and complete in Christ. Again, I repeat, your eye of faith must now be

directed entirely, out of and from yourself, to Jesus. Cast yourself, in childlike faith, upon that atonement, (Christ dying for the ungodly) and you are saved! Justification is a poor, law-condemned, self-condemned, self-destroyed sinner, wrapping himself by faith in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is unto all, and upon all them that believe. He, then, is justified, and is prepared to die, and he only, who casts from him the garment of his own righteousness, and runs into the blessed "City of Refuge" (the Lord Jesus) and hides himself there from the "ravenger of blood, saying, there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 8:1)"

The Bible instructs those who have repented and asked Jesus to save them to continue in obedience with the precepts of scripture by being properly baptized and by living a holy, sanctified life in modesty, simplicity, and non-conformity to the world. By living in this manner we are always ready to answer God when He calls us. Have you answered the call?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1931

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

D. W. Hostetler

Sovereignty means equality, power, right, authority or status of a sovereign. It is the supreme power that determines or administers the government necessary to good citizenship. It carries the idea of dominion; therefore, the world in a sense is his dominion and become responsible to the great sovereign. In order for us to enjoy the benefits and blessings of the Divine Sovereign, we must render habitual obedience to the Divine law.

God possesses attributes, and through these attributes he has revealed himself to the world. We must understand these attributes in an unlimited sense. They are:

1. Power. To this belongs omnipotence (all powerful), might, strength and ability. It is said that "God created the heaven and the earth." In this we see wonderful power. God was able to create the heaven and earth, which is to bring something into existence out of nothing.

2. Wisdom. To this belongs knowledge, understanding, perception (seeing and feeling) and discernment. From these terms it is seen that God is all wise, all understanding. We cannot evade the

wisdom of God. He knows all about us, for Paul says, "But all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

3. Goodness. To this belongs loving kindness. We hear Paul say, "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." God's loving kindness comes through Jesus Christ, and gives a disposition which delights in contributing to the happiness of others. In God all this is exercised cheerfully in supplying our needs.

Paul says: "Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." In that God is the Father of Christ, he is the Father of mercies; hence, Christ is the expression of mercies. It is the act of God extending his favors to us. God has exercised great patience toward us. (I Tim. 1:10) God is compassionate toward us. Compassion is sympathy or pity. It is remarkable that in spite of all we do against God, he still exercises sympathy and pity. He is also benevolent. Benevolence is a disposition to do good.

4. Justice. To this attribute belongs righteousness. God is righteous, and Jesus Christ is his righteousness revealed to mankind. Paul says that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe, and that in the gospel is revealed the righteousness of God. (Rom. 1:16-17) God uses equity. God is no respecter of persons. (Acts 2:34). God judges according to life and on the basis of truth. "The words that I speak shall judge men in the last day." God is faithful to his word, and to his promises.

5. Vengeance. "Vengeance is mine. I will repay saith the Lord." We read about the "wrath of God" being "poured out without mixture" upon them that reject Jesus Christ. Vengeance covers indignation, which is anger mixed with contempt. It also means hatred, anger, severity, jealousy and fury. (Psa. 103:6-12).

I would point us all to Christ on the cross, shedding his blood for us. His blood speaks to the sinner. The first thing it says is Love; the second, Mercy; the third, Pardon; fourth, Acceptance; fifth, Adoption; and sixth, it whispers, Heaven.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Godly Minister

J. H. Moore

It was in the month of August, 1859, one Saturday evening, that we were all in a state of expectancy. The yard had been raked, the

house had been put in trim, some extra baking had been done, and a cheerful look had taken possession of the whole family. We were looking for the preacher that evening. He lived twenty-five miles to the south, and did not come very often, but when he did come, he was given a welcome accorded few ministers in these days of business and bustle.

I was then a lad thirteen years old, and our home, as stated, was in Missouri. A few days before I had told my mother that I wanted to be baptized when Uncle Billy came down the next time. That is what we all called him. His real name was Elder William Gish, and his home was some distance south of Stockton, the county seat of Cedar County. We all loved the old preacher most dearly, and never knew how to do enough for him. He always rode on horseback, and we were familiar with the name of his horse "Bally," as with the preacher himself. In fact to call out in childish delight, "Old Bally is coming!" meant as much to say, "Uncle Billy is coming." In those days, when preachers were few and much beloved, Bro. Gish was sure to be greeted outside of the yard gate by the whole family, baby and all. Even the family dogs seemed to take in the situation and commence their doggish pranks. Usually old Bally was loaded up with children, taken to the well, given a good drink of the best water in the country and then assigned a comfortable place in the log barn.

That night a chapter from the Bible, a song from the little hymn book, and the prayer of the godly man prepared us for the sleep which only the happy and cheerful can enjoy. In my boyish way of looking at things I regarded Bro. Gish as the best man in the world. I often wished that I could be just as good as he was. In him I had the utmost confidence. I thought that everything he did was just right. I cannot now remember one thing he ever said, and yet I sat and listened to his preaching with the greatest of interest. I would have walked five miles any Sunday to hear him preach.

The next morning, of course, was Sunday, and we were all up bright and early, so as to get ready in good time for meeting. Our meeting day was the best of the days. We never had any thoughts of missing even one service. There were three of us to be baptized, myself being the youngest one. I distinctly remember that in laying the order before the applicants one of the deacons said, "We will say nothing to John about the order of dress. We can explain that to him when he gets older." Well, decades have come and gone, but that part of the visit has never been completed.

The meeting was in a schoolhouse on a hill to the north. After meeting we went on a little further to the north, into the edge of St. Clair County, and there had prayer on the bank of one of nature's pools. The water had for centuries been plunging down over a

huge rock shelf, and had scooped out a large basin, that was quite deep at the upper end. Into this pool, surrounded by trees, the applicants were led, and buried with Christ in the holy ordinance of Christian baptism. I came from the liquid grave fully resolved to live a new life in another kingdom. Since then the years have come and gone. My life became crowded with incidents, but in all of my wanderings I have never gotten entirely beyond the influence of the godly man who assisted me to mount the steps and pass into the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I would that all the ambassadors of the cross could be respected and loved as was this earnest preacher, whose visits to my Father's family were the most blessed occasions in my early life.

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

May our loving Father place His approval upon our up-coming two weeks Revival, beginning July 7 with the Harvest Meeting in the afternoon and ending July 21.

Bro. Dennis St. John has consented to bring the Harvest Meeting message and Bro. Paul Hartz will conduct the two weeks reviving.

Let us be preparing our hearts for a special seed bed that God's Word might have a lodging place.

It would encourage us to have the prayers and presence of many.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center Congregation is looking forward to revival meetings August 11 through 18. The Lord willing, Brother Ray Stuber, Felton, Pennsylvania, will be our evangelist.

We invite each of you to come and worship with us. Services begin at 7:45 each week night and at 10:45 A.M., Saturday, August 17.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation plans our annual revival services, Friday, August 16 through August 25. Bro. Paul Hartz, Palmyra, Pennsylvania has consented to be our evangelist. Evening services, 7:30 P.M.; Sunday services, Bible Study, 10:00 A.M., Worship, 11:00 A.M., Lovefeast services, Examination, 3:00 P.M., Saturday, August 25. Fellowship dinner, noon Sunday following morning services.

Swallow Falls needs your help twice — your prayers and your presence.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

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NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

AS THY DAYS SO SHALL THY STRENGTH BE

God broke the years to hours and days,
That hour by hour
And day by day,
Just going on a little way,
We might be able all along
To keep quite strong.
Should all the weights of life
Be laid across our shoulders,
And the future, rife
With woe and struggle,
Meet us face to face
At just one place,
We could not go;
Our feet would stop. And so
God lays a little on us every day,
And never, I believe, on all the way,
Will burdens bear so deep,
Our pathways lie so steep,
But we can go, if by God's power
We only bear the burden of the hour.

- Georgiana Holmes

DOUBTS

Please read Psalm 73 to see one man's problem with his daily thoughts and deeds. As you survey this man's situation, look at yourself. Could his failings also be your failings? Do your thoughts ever parallel his?

The Psalmist, this time it is not David, expresses some of the deepest ponderings of his heart. He wrote of thoughts that a person ordinarily would not allow others to know. But the Bible reveals the innermost feelings of a man, the thoughts and intents of his heart. The Psalmist reveals what we would often hide and even deny. We would prefer that others did not know that we have had doubts and second thoughts about God's dealings with us and with others. We would like to foster a reputation for being always open to God's direction. We would never want it known that we are not one hundred percent in line with God's will.

The Psalmist could realize that with all the manifold blessings that God had bestowed upon Israel, it was still possible for him to have an individual problem. The nation's blessings could not always be translated into personal experience. While we know of God's blessings upon our nation and especially upon the Church, these blessings have little real importance if they are not also our personal blessings. Our relationship with God cannot be merely the Church's relationship as a body, but it must be a personal, individual relationship.

The Psalmist's problem was his envy of the wicked. He knew of God's way, had walked upon it, but as he looked at those who not only did not serve God but actually ridiculed and blasphemed Him, he became jealous. He saw that they were unconcerned about the

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events of life, which troubled him so much. He envied them because of their prosperity and easy lives. While he had troubles, they seemingly did not have a care in the world. While he had less of this world's goods than he desired, he saw the riches that these people enjoyed. They had more than they could ever possibly use. He did not think it was just for him to be in want while they prospered. These people were so obnoxious to him because they not only lived wickedly, but they presumed to speak against God, Heaven and the Church. Yet they seemingly enjoyed privileges that he could not, although he wished to defend his God.

As he contemplated these injustices, he began to think that his choice of serving God and doing right had been in vain. He questioned whether it had been wise for him to be identified with God. He was really depressed as he thought of all he had missed by choosing God rather than the world. The Psalmist was not the last person to have such thoughts.

As these thoughts troubled him, they brought him very low. He knew deep down that he should not be thinking this way, but as he looked about him, these were his heart's ponderings. It was a great Spiritual battle being fought within his heart and mind. What would he do? Would he continue to serve God, even though there were no worldly rewards or would he yield to the lure of pleasantries of the wicked?

The answer alluded him until he went into God's house. There he found the answer to the musings of his heart. It is in the worship, instruction, fellowship and encouragement found in God's house, where one is able to figure out the issues that affect life. Just being in God's house in the time of service brings one closer to God and His Word and His People. There the Psalmist began to put together the teachings he had heard before but had not really applied to his present situation. Now he realized in a more dramatic way that while those he had envied had seemingly enjoyed life to the fullest, they really were only enjoying a temporary time of pleasure during this life. When this life ended the pleasure would all be gone. He realized that God was in charge and He would bring the proper judgement upon all mankind. Those who had lived wickedly would find desolation and would be consumed in His wrath. What had looked like a wonderful, fun-filled life would end in severe penalties imposed by God in His omniscience.

Not only did he learn of the end of the wicked, he also learned of his own ignorance and foolishness. He could now realize that he had not shown the faith and consistency that he should have. He now wanted to be so close to God, that He would be his closest associate. Who else could he turn to?

It is as good for us as it was for the Psalmist to meditate and examine ourselves. Do we have doubts like his? Will we come out with the same result in our hearts, minds and lives?

THE FUTILITY OF LIVING A LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST

Part 1

I read in Luke 12:31 these precious words of our Lord and Master, "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

In a prior verse Jesus encourages us not to be of a doubtful mind or too concerned about what we wear, what we eat or drink. He knows our needs. He emphasizes the need to **SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD** and these things will be given to us.

What a promise!

One will never get a better partner in business than Jesus Christ. Nor anyone more compassionate. Nor anyone that can answer your prayers. He can dry your tears, He can and will comfort your heart and mind, He sticketh closer than a brother and is the **ONLY MEANS** whereby we can be saved.

Jesus had our well-being in mind throughout His ministry and the same thought is woven and interwoven throughout His Holy Word.

Do you realize the futility of going through life and death without Him? **FUTILITY** means useless, in vain, ineffectual and hopeless. According to statistics, and according to God's Word; the vast majority of the world's population are living a life of **FUTILITY**.

Matthew 7:13, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:" And the next verse states, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

A manager of a large and reputable retail outlet was bent on being sure a nice profit appeared on their balance sheet. He would quickly discharge any employee who disagreed with him. His one big demand was more customers buying more merchandise. He put his sales clerks on a commission basis. He worked his employees as well as himself every Sunday. He had not any time for the Lord or for worship. The motto on his desk read, **TODAY, BEAT YESTERDAY'S SALES!** When the store turned sufficiently profitable to award him a bonus of a million dollars, he felt he had reached his goal in life. The next morning he did not go to work. He was found dead in his bed.

Luke 12:20, "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided?"

His was a life of futility!

He had the idea that he was very successful, but true success is not measured by the number of dollars accumulated. Sure success is accepting the Lord Jesus Christ in your life and making Him a life partner in all your activities. Without Christ as the center of your life, you are living a life of futility. You are putting the cart ahead of the horse. Jesus Himself raises a very important question in Luke 9:25, "For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?" The question suggests the answer, NOTHING.

A noted Hollywood performer was hailed as a celebrity. He made a fortune performing before masses of people. The public hailed him a great celebrity. God did not give him success because he was married five times to five different women. God's Word teaches that to wilfully violate His Word and to not obey His commandments, a life is in VAIN. It is a life of futility.

A so-called successful banker rose to the top of his institution. A business friend of his visited the banker often, some times for advice and other times just for a friendly chat. After a long time service for his company in a foreign land, this friend returned home. One of his first desires was to visit his banker friend. In the meantime the banker had died and someone else was occupying his office. This friend asked six different executives of this bank about his former banker friend. No one in the huge institution could give any information on the former banker. While he was wealthy and was highly looked up to in business circles, he was soon forgotten after his decease. He had large amounts of money here on earth, but was most miserably poor towards His Father in Heaven. He, too, lived a life of futility.

Matthew 6:19-20, Jesus speaking, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"

A business man, after making a fortune, having invested in a number of large corporations came near to the close of his life. As he lay on his sick bed, and reviewing his life, made this statement, "WHY HAS GOD CURSED ME SO? At his funeral, someone who knew him well, asked another friend, "How much did he leave?" The answer was, "ALL OF IT. There is no pocket in a shroud."

To be continued
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Do you own them or do they own you?"

I have noticed that children develop a sense of ownership of "things" at a very early age. The instinct is innate with them. Their little colored rattles and "bobbles" by the crib appeal to them and they will grab hold of them and not let go. Of course, as a child grows older, he wants everything he sees and becomes angry when someone tries to take his things away. The need to possess is deeply rooted in our nature and has to come under the control of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches us attitudes that we should have about the ownership of things. As we develop a healthy Christian mentality, we will please the Lord in this area of our lives.

We need to better understand the principle of sharing. This can come from parents showing the right attitude toward children who want to share their things. They should be encouraged when they give, as this helps to break the fierce hold that the desire to possess has over a child.

There are two kinds of people... those who are givers and those who are takers. A taker never seems to learn how to love or to give of themselves because of their expectation of always receiving. Givers find great happiness in sharing and in giving of themselves. Whether you are a giver or a taker will shape almost every aspect of your life and all of your human relationships. Thus the need to discuss this subject.

Children should learn to give what is theirs or what they have earned instead of the parents taking care of this responsibility at all times. They will develop a joy of giving because they have had to sacrifice something to give to someone else. This helps to develop the attitude that a Christian should have towards material possessions and towards being a giving person. Of course we want the child to learn to handle his money and possessions properly and to be "shrewd" in their management. But, if we are indifferent to their actions, they will not learn to give.

If you have not been taught how to give, you may also be experiencing difficulties in your relationships with your own family or with friends. You might become a miserable husband or wife because you don't know how to give and to share properly. It will be difficult for you to share time and feelings as well as experiences if you are not a giver.

Giving people are always beautiful people. "Cheap" people end up the butt of jokes and ridicule behind their backs. These are the kind of people we all try to avoid because they don't know how to be friends. Selfish people use everyone. You realize it is just a matter of time before they use you.

So we see that there is an important balance between "thrifty" and not too giving and having the right attitude toward sharing with others. Yes, saving and right principles of money management must be taught and practiced, but having a non-giving attitude sets a whole philosophy of life that is against God's will for His people.

Look at your life closely. Check your attitudes. Pray that God will deepen your awareness of the needs of others and open up your heart and give freely and with a Christ-like spirit.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 15, 1931

TAKING HEED

B. E. Kesler

Many of the mishaps and accidents and failures of this life are the result of heedlessness. And the remorse and anguish of the life to come will be due to the fact that the warnings and signals along life's pathway were not heeded.

And many of the calamities and tragedies of life are due to carelessness. Yet, with full knowledge of these things, men still hazard their lives and jeopardize their souls by recklessness and heedlessness.

The greatest risk anyone ever took, or can take, is when he jeopardizes his future happiness and wellbeing in the world to come by failing to heed the signals by the way. And the surest way to avert this catastrophe is to take heed to self. A determination to practice self control, to subdue self, to crucify the flesh and fleshly desires, is the first and most effective way to avoid calamities and destructive fatalities.

An aged minister one time told a young preacher to "take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." And in thus taking heed to himself, he was told, "be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." With this kind of leader, it would seem an easy matter for the people to follow. Many of the failures in life are due to defective leadership. God one time said, "the leaders of my people have erred and they shall all be destroyed." So that it behooves us to take heed to our leaders. The mere fact that one poses as a leader is no reason we should follow him. At the same time good leaders are a blessing to any people.

We notice, also, that Paul told this preacher, Timothy, to "take heed to the doctrine." How different from present-day teaching!

Teach doctrine? Why, no, not now. We don't need doctrine now." Get the people saved and let doctrine take care of itself.

That's the modern idea. Just get the people saved and then let them choose the doctrine that suits them best. "Get saved and then join any church that suits you, or no church at all, for that matter. Doctrine doesn't figure in the case, anyhow."

How different this from Paul's teaching! Hear him as he tells Timothy to "take heed to the doctrine, for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." Neither Paul nor Timothy had learned about this modern way of getting saved (?) without doctrine. He also told the Roman brethren they had "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine delivered unto them", and that they were "then made free from sin", and "had their fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life." "Made free from sin", saved from sin, but not until they had obeyed the "form of doctrine delivered to them."

Then we are told to "take heed what ye hear." Here are two opposing theories, one is salvation without doctrine, the modern theory. The other, salvation by obeying the form of doctrine delivered, the Bible way. We do well to take heed which we accept; for "many false teachers have gone out into the world." As a matter of fact, their teaching is false. And so we are told to "take heed how ye hear." If we follow false teachers and hear and heed their false teaching, the end will be disastrous."

The greatest Teacher of all said, "Follow me" and "learn of me", and this is surely safe; for He is a "teacher come from God." Neither is there salvation in any other. For it is said, "Every soul which will not hear that prophet shall be destroyed from among the people." "Take heed therefore, what and how ye hear; for "they that hear (him) shall live."

Again, we are told, "Ye are the light of the world", and then, "take heed that the light that is in thee be not darkness." Light, darkness? Yes, it can be, may be. "Woe unto them that put darkness for light, and light for darkness." Well informed persons, capable of being good leaders, but "turn the truth of God into a lie." They say we can be saved without doctrine, without works, even without a faith that changes the mind or a repentance that changes the life and of course without baptism — that changes the relation. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" has no place in their theology, and for them to believe, "as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ", is unthinkable. And when this great prophet whom we are to hear in all things says, "Ye ought to wash one another's feet", they unhesitatingly say, "Ye ought not." And when Peter says, "the like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us", they quickly reply, "Baptism has nothing to do with it."

So we shall do well to take heed what, how and whom we hear, and that "the light that is in us be not darkness." For it is easy to see how light may be put for darkness, and darkness be put for light. A theory put for truth, and truth set aside for a theory.

"Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard", or may hear, "lest at any time we let the truth slip", and accept a theory of men in its stead. Take heed, therefore, what, how or whom ye hear.

LIVING AND WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:25-26, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

Colossians 1:7-8, "As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow-servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit."

I John 4:6, "We are of God; he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

Revelation 2:29, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that it is possible to live in the Spirit without walking in the Spirit. This is not to say that we can accept Jesus Christ as our Savior without acknowledging Him as our Lord. Neither does this make valid the false teaching that an individual can willfully live a life of sin and remain saved. As we read in Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." What it does suggest is that we can be "Spirit filled Christians" and not walk as God would have us to walk in relation to one another. It may also be possible to live in the Spirit and follow error.

Walking in the Spirit means we are not to be desirous of vain glory. There is much fleshly work being performed in the name of the Spirit from which God receives no glory. While we must be willing to enter into a door of service opened by God, we must be very careful that our human pride does not rush in first. Are we willing to be like Epaphras? He never was given the opportunity to be known as a writer of one of the books of the Bible. He is not one of the well known names in the Bible. He is not spoken of as one who performed miracles or used the "gifts of the Spirit" that many see as essential today. But he was listed as a faithful minister of Christ. God never called us to be successful (as this is understood by the world) but He did call us to be faithful.

Walking in the Spirit means that we are not to provoke one another. One of the things Epaphras declared was "your love in the Spirit." Do we desire to build up one another in the faith or do we look for opportunities to tear down one another? This "provoking one another" must be understood in the light of "Let us not be desirous of vain glory." We are instructed in Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." We are persuaded that one of the reasons the earthly church is not as strong as it should be is because internal strife in place of encouraging one another in the faith is the predominate situation.

Walking in the Spirit means that we are not to envy one another. Do we envy another congregation because they are larger than we are? Do we envy a brother or sister because they have more worldly goods? Envy brings about hatred and broken fellowship with God and with one another. In place of envy and strife we need love and compassion one for another. We need to desire that we be in the will of God for our lives.

Can we walk in the Spirit and still fall victim to error? This is a difficult question to answer. If we answer in the negative we are forced to decide who enters Heaven and who does not. We are persuaded that this decision only God can make. If we answer in the affirmative how do we reconcile this with such scriptures as I John 4:67 "We are of God" speaks of those who wrote the Holy Scriptures. "He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us." The easy way out of this dilemma is to state that different individuals and groups have different understanding of Scripture thus differing interpretations. What this actually comes down to is there are various truths or at the least that God will accept something less than truth. But God's Word says that we can know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Can we walk in the Spirit and change truth? While we will allow God to be the final judge of individuals and groups, we are persuaded that the vast majority of christendom is following modern trends in place of living and walking in the Spirit. We can be certain that God has not changed his mind about such things as homosexuality, adultery and other sexual sins. Most would agree that those who do such will not enter into the Kingdom of God unless they repent. But some liberal church groups are saying such things will not break fellowship with God. Unconditional eternal security leaves a big question mark on these issues. Has God changed His mind on such issues as immodest dress, worldly activities and women preachers? A large majority of the professing church would seem to answer, "yes," on some or all of these. When you get to such things as the covering for women it would seem as if God has written a new book!

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." This is what living and walking in the Spirit is all about. If we truly hear then we will obey. Obedience will bring eternal life. What will the end results be for disobedience? Let us take heed.

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UNDERSTANDING ATHEISM

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Psalms 14:1a.

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him." Psalms 103:11.

As we briefly touch upon this subject please keep in mind that in dealing with religious arguments we must always show our compassion to our detractors. We can win an argument and yet lose the soul of that person. Our end goal in every situation is to Honor God, preach His gospel, and allow the person to consider God. It is the Holy Ghost who wins the SOUL.

If a person says, "There is no god," the burden of proof lies with him to prove his argument. No man can prove that God does not exist, because no man has been everywhere. Man, with all his sophisticated equipment, has aimed the telescopes in every direction. There is no end to the universe, and we will probably never see it all. It took several hundred years to be able to make an accurate map of the world, and today the old maps, because of their inaccuracies, look comical to us. We are constantly delving into the wonders of God's physical kingdom, and the more we find out the more we realize how truly primitive we are. The atheist has been no further than the most advanced astronomer, yet he cannot disprove what he cannot completely see. I could make the statement, "There are no purple snakes anywhere in the world," but I have not been everywhere in the world, so I cannot prove my statement.

Most atheists have poor arguments, but those who do (at least in their own mind) are usually trying to excuse their ungodly behavior. They justify their sins by claiming they need not answer to anyone. God mocks them in their sins, and reminds them of their ungodliness, so in an effort to put Him out of their minds, they deny His existence.

Some atheists I have spoken to have used for their premise the "stigma of religion." The word, STIGMA, is a Greek word meaning "a mark of reproach." It is found in the New Testament at only one place, Galatians 6:17, the "marks" of the Lord Jesus. The atheist will claim that all religious people are weak, having to rely on a faceless entity. instead of their own strength. They also say that religious

people are bigoted and judgmental towards others. Yet they display the same attitude toward religious people that they accuse religious people of, which destroys their argument. To say we are weak is true, but someone who has no hope of God will see his own strength as the greatest virtue. The strength of God is our greatest virtue.

We must realize that all men have souls that will live forever somewhere. Do we love them as Jesus did? We cannot afford to cheat certain people, whom we do not think are worthy, from the hearing of the Gospel. The atheist, though he denies it, has a never-dying soul. To convince him of that fact we must live the Christian life before him, ever expecting and looking forward to our Lord's return. He must see our hope and be attracted to it by the life we live. If we allow the Holy Spirit to work and rule our lives, then He will likewise be able to work in others, even those who deny His existence.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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OBITUARIES

VALLIE WOLFE

Sister Vallie Irene (Daub) Wolfe, daughter of the late William and Alice (Eisenhauer) Daub, was born March 4, 1906. She exchanged time for eternity, February 23, 1991 at the age of eighty-four years, eleven months and nine days. She was a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church.

She married Thomas H. Wolfe, who preceded her on August 8, 1982. Also preceding her was an infant son, Thomas Henry.

She is survived by three sons and four daughters: Clarence, Myerstown, PA; Verling, Bethel, PA; Kenneth, Lebanon, PA; Alice, wife of Clayton Farnsworth, Fredericksburg, PA; Beulah Wolfe, of the home; Linda, wife of Russel Enders, Dauphin, PA; and Darlene Corbin, Bethel, PA. She is also survived by a brother, David Daub, Myerstown, PA and two sisters, Beulah, widow of Oscar Light, Palmyra, PA and Nellie Daub, Bethel, PA; twenty-one grandchildren, thirty-six great grandchildren and four great, great grandchildren.

Thank You, Grandma

Thank you, Grandma
For the life you lived;
For the living example
How to cheerfully give.
You gave of yourself
And the work of your hand;
Pies and cookies,
Chow-chow and jam;

Your sparkling brown eyes,
Your smiling face;
In the kitchen or garden
No time did you waste;
Thank you for saying
"I love you, too!"
It completes the beautiful memories
I hold of you!

P.S. Tell Jesus, I'm coming too!

I love you, Grandma!

Your Granddaughter, Sylvia

JAMES NOECKER

Brother James John Noecker was born April 17, 1936 in Tilton Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. He was the sixth child of William and Cora (Yeich) Noecker. He was killed in an accident on May 15, 1991, near Hart, Michigan, at the age of fifty-five years and twenty eight days.

He was raised in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, where he attended Blue Mountain Valley School through third grade. He attended school in Auburn, before leaving school in the ninth grade to help his family at home.

He accepted Christ as his Saviour, August, 1953, when he was seventeen and became a member of the Frystown Dunkard Brethren Church. At the age of twenty, he went to Byeberry Hospital, near Philadelphia to serve two years of 1W service. Leaving there in 1958, he traveled throughout the United States, visiting all the Dunkard Brethren communities, working for the Brethren wherever he was needed. He also helped at the Torreon Navajo Mission near Cuba, New Mexico for several months, constructing a native stone garage for their use.

He located at Hart, Michigan in 1963, where he helped the members move the former West Golden Church to its present location on 56th Avenue. He went into the housemoving business, first with Eldon Flory, later on his own. He moved many buildings in Oceana, Mason, and Muskegon Counties.

He was married March 16, 1967 at Dallas Center, Iowa to Marie E. Reed, who survives. Also surviving are two sons, James and wife Crystal; Ray, both of Hart, Michigan; three daughters, Mona, Torreon Navajo Mission, New Mexico; Cora and Nancy at home.

He also leaves to mourn his passing, his mother, Cora Noecker, Auburn, PA; his brothers, Moses and wife Mary Lou, Orwigsburg, PA; Samuel and wife Betty, Auburn, PA; Paul and wife Sylvetta, Orwigsburg, PA; Daniel and wife Dorothy, Bethel, PA; Thomas and wife Ollie, Quakertown, PA; his sisters, Martha Guris, Schuylkill

Haven, PA; Mary and husband Clyde Leimeister, Auburn, PA; Rachel and husband Mark Eberly, Richland, PA; and Elizabeth and husband Christopher Frantz, Pottsville, PA. He is survived by four aunts, two uncles, many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, William, in 1966 and his oldest sister, Ruth, in 1990.

He has been a willing helper and friend to many people in the community over the years. He believed, as the Bible says, "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40.

Funeral services were held on May 18th at Elbridge Community Church with Elder Harley Flory officiating, assisted by Bro. Ronald Marks. Bro. Jay McGhan was chorister. Burial was in Elbridge Township Cemetery.

The following is a verse from a card Jim recently gave to Marie:

Please Don't Promise Me Forever...

I want us to love each other one day at a time

And string all those days together

Like the precious things they are...

Instead of trying too hard and promising too much

I love you more today than I ever have before.

I can't promise you forever,

But, I can promise you today with the hope and belief

That there is a beautiful tomorrow in store for us.

JIM HAS FOUND HIS BEAUTIFUL TOMORROW!!

Our heartfelt thanks to each of you across the Brotherhood who have supported us with cards, letters, gifts and, most importantly, your prayers, both during my hospitalization in March and since Jim's death. May God richly bless you all.

Sister Marie Noecker and Family

NEWS ITEMS

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Walnut Grove Congregation has scheduled a week's revival effort starting July 21 and ending July 28. Lord willing, Bro. Fred Pifer will be the evangelist.

Come, and enjoy this season of refreshing with us. Pray for these meetings, and others, that as the Word goes forth, God's will would be done in that souls would be ushered into the kingdom and believers would be stirred to more sober earnestness.

Sister Dorothy Nell, Cor.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, our revival meeting will begin July 28 and end August 4. Our speaker will be Bro. Paul Hartz.

Come and worship with us if you can, and pray for these services.

Sister Lavona Sines, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

We are looking forward to our Revival Meetings this summer. It will be a one week meeting, starting July 28 and ending August 4. Bro. James Meyers, from Dallas Center, Iowa plans to be with us and bring the messages. Will you pray for these meetings, and that those who need a Savior, will accept Him. Come, worship and praise God with us.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson from Bethel, Pennsylvania will hold a one week revival, August 18 through 25. Services will be at 7:30 each evening, with Harvest Meeting on August 25. We extend a welcome to all who can come.

Sister Becky Stalter, Cor.

NOTICE

We here at Bethel Dunkard Brethren School are in need of teachers for the 91-92 school term. If interested, please contact school or call Verling Wolfe 717-933-4246.

Pray the Lord will direct and fill our need. Thank you!



The wife of a drunkard found her husband with torn clothes, matted hair, and bruised face, asleep in the room, having come home from a drunken revel. She sent for a photographer, and had a portrait of him taken in all his wretched appearance, and placed it on the mantel beside another portrait taken at the time of his marriage, which showed him handsome and well dressed. When he became sober he saw the two pictures and awakened to a consciousness of his condition, from which he arose to a better life. The office of the law is not to save men, but to show them their true state as compared with the Divine standard. It is like a glass, in which one seeth himself.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1991

August 4 - False Teachers - II Peter 2:1-5.

1. What are the methods of false teachers?
2. What promise is given to the Godly? verse 9.

August 11 - Wells Without Water - II Peter 2:9-22.

1. What are some characteristics of false teachers?
2. What is the end of the false teacher?

August 18 - The Word of God - II Peter 3:1-9.

1. What do verses 3-6 say of our day?
2. List some qualities of the Word of God.

August 25 - The Day of the Lord - II Peter 3:10-18.

1. What is this "day of the Lord?"
2. How will believers prepare for this day? verse 14.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1991

August 4 - Service - Matt. 21:28-32, I Cor. 15:58, James 2:14-26.

1. What should motivate us to serve the Lord?
2. What is our reasonable service? Romans 12:1.

August 11 - Clean Living - Psalms 119:1-16, I John 2:14-17.

1. Why is clean living important?
2. How can we keep our life clean? Pro. 4:23, Psalms 119:9-12.

August 18 - Following the Crowd - Ex. 23:1-2, Deut. 12:28-32, II Kings 17:15, Matt. 23:1-12.

1. Throughout history, have God's people been the "crowds" or the "remnant"?
2. Where are the crowds headed? Matt. 7:13.

August 25 - Awake or Asleep - Mark 13:34-37, Mark 14:32-40, Eph. 5:14-17.

1. What are the symptoms of spiritual slumber?
2. Compare the dangers of spiritual slumber to the blessings of spiritual alertness!

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NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I'M A CHILD OF THE KING

I'm a child of the King, Who is mightier far
Than the kings of this world In their palaces are;
I'm a child of the King,
What a wonderful thing!
I'm a child of the King.

I'm a child of the King, Who has conquered the grave,
I'm a child of the King, Who is mighty to save!
I'm a child of the King,
What a wonderful thing!
I'm a child of the King.

I'm a child of the King, And His majesty own!
I'm a child of the King, And an heir to the throne!
I'm a child of the King,
What a wonderful thing!
I'm a child of the King.

- E. R. Latta

OUR FATHERLAND OR OUR FATHER'S LAND?

Our nation has been celebrating itself, the last few months. Operation Desert Storm has sparked a great revival in American patriotism. There have been many public celebrations, which have been dedicated to cheering, thanking, and adulating its military forces. Community gatherings which normally have no patriotic connection have been dedicated to praise for the military.

The Christian's relationship with his country is always touchy. He often has to use great care in his approach to events and programs sponsored by the government. What seems to be good or neutral may actually be a means of compromising the Christian. American Christians have much to be thankful for. Compared with other countries, few would want to move from where they are. The privileges enjoyed by Christians here are unknown in most other countries. The appreciation for these privileges may become traps to ensnare the Christian. The Christian can become more dedicated to The Fatherland than to his Heavenly Father. He can compromise and allow himself or his family to be used in programs that exalt the government above God. He can become so appreciated of the privileges he enjoys that he begins to engage in activities that promote the government instead of the Church. He begins to see the government as the source of all the needs of its citizens. He forgets that the Church is a higher institution than the government. God has ordained government, nationally and ecclesiastically, because He is a God of law and order.

The men who direct the government may tend to think too highly of themselves. They may take too much power to themselves. They may begin to see themselves as the source where all citizens can

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have all their needs met. To accomplish the goals of the government, force, threats and punishment are used. These methods are diametrically opposed to those ordained for use by God's people. The Christian has been taught to use love, concern and care in dealing with others. The Christian's way of thinking is different than the government's, because the government's decisions are based on majority rule, but the decisions of the Church are based on the Word of God. The government's majority is fashioned through compromise, while the Christian must stand upon the foundation of the Word of God. The government has been established to keep all in order; whatever means are necessary may be used. God has established specific regulations for His people to follow. He wants all to follow His course willingly; He will force no one to become a Christian. God wishes to convict and convince men so they will follow Him. He has placed conspicuous warnings and loving advices before them, but He still will not force anyone to make that choice. The government constantly forces its citizens to do its bidding by threats and actual force.

The New Testament definition of good citizenship differs from the nation's definition. Voting, political activity, jury duty and military service are some of the ways a "good" citizen is to show his loyalty to the government. The New Testament advises against involvement in these activities. The Christian is told to pray for the leaders of the nation, to live a quiet and peaceable life and to do all the good he can. Doing these things he becomes a better citizen than the one who is involved in the activities of this world's governments.

The Christian must be law-abiding as long as the laws do not conflict with the Word of God. In reality there are few occasions when this happens in our country. There have been provisions made for the conscientious Christian's benefit, so he need not wound his conscience. But he does need to be very careful about the attitude and deference that he shows toward the activities of citizenship which he is expected to perform. The Christian needs to do all the good that he can, by helping those of his community who have a need. He needs to be careful that he does not become compromised by thinking that various charitable groups and activities can take the place of the Church. The Christian must not become involved in the patriotic activities that are presently so popular. Because the Christian is nonresistant, it is inconsistent for him to participate in activities honoring the military. The Christian should seek that which will help and heal all people, even his enemies, rather than exalt slaying, maiming and destroying.

We should be thankful for our country and its privileges. We should seek to be the very best citizens we can be, by God's

definition. We should honor our country, but we must realize that Our Fatherland is not nearly as important as our Heavenly Father. Choose your Father's Land over the Fatherland.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Respectfully yours"

Have you ever received a letter signed, "respectfully yours?" This is a statement that shows honor to the person receiving the correspondence. And respect for others is something that is sadly missing in much of our society today and even from the lives of conservative Christians.

Jesus, even though He was the Son of God, showed a great respect for His fellow humans. We see it in the gentleness of the treatment of the widowed woman of Nain who was burying her only son. We see it in the kind way He treated Peter's mother-in-law. We also see it in the courtesy with which He treated the Roman official who wanted his servant cured. Respect for the dignity of others was very much a part of the spirituality Jesus bequeathed to us and it should be a part of our own lives.

Ultimately, the way you treat others flows from the attitude you have toward yourself. If parents treat their children with respect, their children, in turn, learn to respect others. One of the most repulsive attitudes of our day is parents which allow children to relate to them in a personal and casual basis. Some parents are even reluctant to discipline children or to be harsh with them because they want a "friendly" kind of environment at home. To watch the results of this kind of relationship is quite a shock. Parents who allow children to treat them as friends and not parents erase the barriers that exist between the parent and the child relative to authority and its meaning. This bewilders young people because they expect wisdom and advice from their parent authority figure. Ultimately, abuse and opposition to commands are the results and these negative factors carry over into all parts of the person's life. When the casual relationship continues it ends up in frustration, violence and abuse.

Another problem that children have who are on too "friendly" terms with their parents is an inability to look up to other adults. Authority has little or no meaning to them because it was never a part of their family life. This carries right over into church government. Respect for the positions of others is lost.

Respect is a quality that is noticeably absent in our society. It is a must for government and society to function smoothly. Respect is the mark of a refined person who has developed an appreciation for the gifts and the accomplishments of others. It also allows for

differences in personality and environmental circumstances. Because it is tied to your attitude toward yourself, it will become a measure of your happiness.

To respect others is to imitate the life of Jesus. Courtesy and congeniality go hand in hand with respect and this trait learns to see the importance of others and not downgrade them or see them as inferior.

Leaders in the church and your parents have experiences that you can draw on and lean into. The more you respect them the more you will be able to draw on their expertise.

Respect is basic in your Christian behavior so you should place its development in a position of utmost importance in your life.

Brother Len Wertz

THE FUTILITY OF LIVING A LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST

Part 2

It is recorded in history that a British multimillionaire decided to build himself a mansion on his one thousand plus acre estate located near the huge city of London. Prior to building the mansion, he built a "modest" two story, fourteen room house to live in while the mansion was being constructed. It was later to become the guest house. He was so engrossed in his business and so money hungry that he neglected his family to the extent that his wife divorced him. He never lived, even one day, in his completed mansion. His divorced wife got sole title to it. According to I Timothy 5:8, which reads, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.", his life would be classed as a life of futility, regardless of his financial worth.

What is the real meaning of life to those who are financially successful, but leave God and Christ out of their life? Their goal in life, their definition of success is acquiring an abundance of material things, recognition of status by high society, a big name in the business world. The wise man Solomon said, "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity." **WE MUST LET GOD JUDGE THESE MATTERS**, but for His followers, He gives us sufficient instruction in His Word, that if we obey, our life will not be one of futility.

I have read numerous articles stating or inferring that the richer some people are, the more discontented they are and some of the poorer class enjoy life more than many of the rich. When we consider that "The love of money is the root of all evil" we must be careful about how we obtain our wealth and how we use it.

We are just stewards of the blessings God grants us. We must give an account of our stewardship. May we be found as trustworthy stewards.

If we have not sought first, "The Kingdom of Heaven," all other things we might gain will not satisfy. It compares to wasting a lifetime of hard effort striving after a handful of wind.

King Solomon had wealth, high authority, everything he could wish for, "But he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord." He did not keep or do what the Lord commanded. He cried out, "All is vanity." He knew he was living a life of FUTILITY.

Nothing is more important than knowing God's Word and obeying it. Knowing that every effort made for the Lord is well rewarded. I well remember a faithful Elder, though he was ill, whenever he was asked how he was, his reply was, "HAPPY ON THE WAY." If we put first things first we will not experience a life of FUTILITY, but one of inner peace, joy and happiness.

We should set a goal and then put forth every effort to achieve that goal. Athletes set a goal and spend much time in preparing their bodies to enable reaching their goal. They often sacrifice other interests to do so.

In seeking the goal of a reward in Heaven, we definitely must sacrifice many things in this world. Christ made a great sacrifice for us. Are we willing to do so for Him? If not, we are living a life of FUTILITY.

Christ taught about two builders. One build on the sand, and when the storms and floods came, great was the fall of it. The other builder built upon the rock, a solid foundation. When the storms and floods came, it stood, undamaged. The rock upon which he built was CHRIST. I Corinthians 10:4. Building our spiritual building upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, we are assured that it will stand, regardless of the rage and storms that Satan may cast our way. Our anchor will hold.

There are so many scriptures that bear on my subject, I hardly know where to stop. We can be so impoverished in this life, that we may actually not have enough food to eat. If we hunger for the spiritual food, Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Obeying God and Christ will never end in futility, but we will be richly rewarded in Heaven.

Isaiah 55:1-2, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?..."

The ground of a certain man brought forth more produce than he could store. He decided to tear down his barns and build bigger. He was so pleased with his abundance of possessions, that he decided to take life easy, to eat, drink and be merry. In Luke 12:20 we read that God thought about his chosen way of life. "And God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Regardless of his wealth in this world, he was beggarly poor toward God and Christ. HIS WAS A LIFE OF FUTILITY.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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THE BLOOD APPLIED

Zechariah 13:1, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."

Ephesians 1:5-7, "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

II Thessalonians 2:13-15, "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught whether by word, or our epistle."

I John 2:2, "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

As hymn writer William Cowper says,

"There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains."

Although we have a problem fitting at least one of the following verses in Zachariah 13 into this fulfillment, we believe our opening verse refers to this most important of happenings in history's unfolding scene. This was a promise both to the Jews (house of David) and the Gentiles (inhabitants of Jerusalem).

We see from the verses quoted from Ephesians that this was God's plan for mankind from the ageless times of eternity past. For He predestinated us according to the good pleasure of His will. From this and similar scriptures comes the teaching of a limited atonement. That is that Jesus Christ died only for the elect. It is true that Jesus Christ died for the elect but it is not true that he died for the select! For we read in II Corinthians 5:15, "And that he died for all,..." The fact that we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins is not popular in many church circles today. They would have you believe that man's good works is what will take them to Heaven. Missionary and evangelistic efforts to save lives and to make life more comfortable for the unfortunates of the world is commendable, it cannot replace reaching out with the offer of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

We also see that the salvation through the blood is according to the riches of His grace. Grace is getting something which we do not deserve and could never earn. No man is good enough to enter heaven on his own merits. No man is rich enough to bribe God. God sees our self-righteousness as filthy rags and He owns the world and all that is therein.

However, we see in the portion taken from II Thessalonians that we are also chosen to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. All too many have stressed the blood of Jesus Christ but seem to forget the sanctification of the Spirit. Sanctification means to be set apart. The Holy Scriptures teach that we are set apart from the world and filthy fleshly desires which lead to actions that are not pleasing to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. We see this as the blood applied to our lives. It is the difference between human works and the working of the Holy Spirit within our lives. Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our part is belief of the truth. We are then taught, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

Why are many of the plain people joining the large numbers who are afraid of tradition? Why do we many times no longer stress that baptism is essential for salvation and that we are to be baptized for the remission of sins? This is not only one of our traditions but is clearly taught in Holy Scripture. Perhaps one of the reasons is that we are afraid that we might judge those who baptize different than we do. We can continue to practice and teach trine immersion baptism for the remission of sins without judging those who do not baptize this way. But we believe a far more prevalent reason is that we have been brainwashed by those who believe that baptism for the remission of sins takes away from the shed blood of Christ. This is a lie from our enemy Satan who has blinded the mind of the multitudes!

Remember that he is the propitiation for our sins. That is "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" if we sin, and all of us have, due to human nature. What a glorious promise to the Christian through the blood of Christ. "And not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." Christ's blood turned the wrath of the Father away. He died for all but not all will be saved. Some will spend eternity in everlasting fire. Have you had the blood applied to your life? Are you striving to prove faithful until the end? Without true salvation and obedience the blood of Christ has no effect on your life. Thank God for the blood, may we prove worthy and desire to do His will.

Brother James M. Hite
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THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The church is of high origin. It is of God. It is of priceless value. Its establishment cost the blood of Christ. It is held in high esteem, for Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. Eph. 5:25. The church is the kingdom of God, and his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; "of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." Isa. 9:7.

It is important to become a member of the church, for in the church is salvation. We have no promise of salvation out of it. We get into the church through Christ. We cannot enter in any other way. "By me if any man enter in he shall be saved." John 10:9. We enter the church in Christian baptism and if we are in Christ we are in the church. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Eph. 3:27.

If we leave the church we leave Christ. In the struggle for eternal life, the crown is to him that holds out faithful to the end. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10. In the church we learn the great lesson of perseverance, — a faithful continuance in well-doing. It is there that we learn the lesson of brotherly love and brotherly forbearance. Without the church there could be no preparation for heaven. We would lack life's discipline, — the struggle of the newborn soul for victory over the world. There would be no means of growth in knowledge and spiritual life, no life of separation from the world, no means of self-denial, of bringing into subjection all that is evil in human nature and developing all that is good.

In the church there is communion with God, union with Christ, and fellowship with the saints. The church is the "pillar and ground of the truth," and holds up before the world the pure Word of God,

and invites sinners to come to Christ the way of salvation. It is the church that sends out God's faithful ministers and sustains their labors by her example in obeying the commandments of God, and in maintaining the principles of the Gospel of Christ. Each member has a part in this great work, and as each one gives and as each one does so shall be his reward. It is a work for Christ who gave himself for the church. In the church "we are laborers together with God;" then, as God gives the means and the power to do, each one should use them and not withhold them.

The church is an organization complete within itself. All her members receive her care, her love, her protection. All who join the church must come out from the world and be a separate people. God has put within the church all that is good, all that is needful for man's happiness here and hereafter. In the church the soul is fed with the Bread of Life; and the thirsty soul may drink the Water of Life. Within her embrace is life, and liberty, and exercise for all that is lawful, and pure, and holy.

The first step towards the church is a step towards heaven. The first step from the church is a step towards sin and death. Sin degrades, seeks lower levels — the level of the world that lieth in sin. Some are drawn away by a desire to dress after the fashion of the world. That desire is sinful; God would not have us decorate the body that shall die, but he would have us adorn the soul with Christian graces. Others are enticed into the meshes of some secret order where they spend their time and means to the furtherance of the kingdom of darkness. Then others, becoming restless under the restraints which Christ has thrown around his people for their protection from the inroads of the world, the flesh and the devil, seek more liberty in ways where the cross of Christ is not felt, and they need not bear his yoke.

An old Brethren Tract

ON TIME AND IN YOUR PLACE

When visitors come to your little assembly, what is it that strikes them about it? Do they see how the brethren are in peace and harmony? Do they see how neat and well ordered everything is? Do they see everyone seated and anxiously anticipating the beginning of the service? Do they hear inspired singing and speakers excited about their faith? Does the Holy Ghost rule and reign in each life and in the meeting?

Or, do they see people drifting in well into the worship service, not concerned that they are many minutes late? Do they hear the noise of disobedient children, and do they see the littered floor and hymn books strewn carelessly all over? Do they simply see

carelessness on every hand and do they wonder if these people are as careless about their eternal souls?

Some of us can teach. Some can even preach. Some have a talent with children and some are talented with balancing the books or keeping things clean. But we can all be on time and in our place with a reverence for God and His House. We can come with a prepared lesson, a liberal offering, and a willingness to worship and be used of God for His service. We should spend a little time in self-examination considering the appearance we make before the world. Could I be the one who is keeping others out of the Kingdom of God? Could it be you?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1931

LOOSING FROM CRETE

A. B. VanDyke

"Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not to have loosed from Crete." (Acts 27:21) Paul, the servant of the Lord, filled with wisdom, and led by the Holy Spirit, in bonds, and sore trials, had given the warning not to venture on the journey at that time.

But the warning was not heeded, hence came suffering and loss. "Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me."

How often is the case when the advice of one that is led by the spirit of God is not heeded there is much harm and loss.

The sailors thought they knew, but did they? How often do we see this verified. Some who ought to know, and are very ready to instruct, often cause much harm and loss.

The warning went out, do not loose from Crete.

But, alas! the warning was not heeded. They loosed, and the record tells the story of a long, perilous struggle in a storm, that for fourteen days of such anxiety that they abstained from eating and rest. Why all of this?

Because the warning given by man led by the spirit of God was not heeded, they loosed and were tossed to and fro for days and nights until all hope was gone, at which time the Lord revealed to Paul that their lives should be spared.

Why are we so ready to heed the wrong message? Why are so many so eager to proclaim the wrong message? Paul again says: "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good." (I Thess. 5:21) And

Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23) In the keeping of the word of God, we have the promise of the leading of the Holy Spirit into all truth. Why are so many departing from the word of God and accepting and teaching for doctrine the commandments of men?

Why has satan so blinded our eyes that we will not see the truth? Do not loose from the word of God, is the warning that has been proclaimed by the servants of God all through this age. But many who have been as watchmen upon the walls of Zion are giving false alarms.

If his word teaches the putting away the things of the world and it does, why drag them into the church and bring this great harm and loss? And if these things are to try us, should our mouths or our pens be stopped by these false watchmen? Or shall we cry out against them. Woe be unto us if we faint by the way and cease to cry out.

Yes, there shall be a falling away but does that excuse us, for departing from the truth and condone sin in our midst? God forbid! Shall we trifle with the word of God until he shall see fit to send a delusion that we should believe a lie? "That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but have pleasure in (II Thess. 2:12) "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." (I Cor. 16:13) And again Paul says, "Finally my brethren farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (II Cor. 13:11) And now may we be obedient to the word of God that we may have a right to claim and expect the guidance of his spirit into all truth.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Mush and Milk for Supper

J. H. Moore

Among the early settlers in this country there was doubtless more hospitality than there is at the present time, and it was probably more highly prized. Those given to the entertaining of strangers were generally spoken of in a complimentary manner. In the absence of hotels they were sought out by the traveler, and then recommended to the other travelers. In this way some families became widely known with the traveling public.

There were those who prided themselves with the thought that they never turned a stranger from their door. My father was one of this class. At the time of which we now write he lived on a farm a

short distance from an extensively-traveled road in the Southwest. Houses were then few, and some of them far apart. Every traveler who asked for lodging got it, — such as we had in those days, when everybody in that part of the country was glad to be the proud owner of even a one-story log cabin, with a puncheon floor, clap-board roof and a large fireplace, where most of the cooking was done. In the lodging of strangers our experience was varied, sometimes interesting and now and then a little annoying. We now refer to an instance that has always been pleasant to think about.

One evening a well-dressed traveler rode up to the fence, just in front of the door — we lived about three hundred yards from the road — and asked lodging of my father. He was told that he could share the hospitality of the home if he thought he could put up with our simple way of living. This he said he could do with pleasure. He dismounted — nearly all travelers in those days made their way through the country on horseback — and his horse was placed in the log stable on the north side of the hill, while the traveler, with my father and us children, waited for supper in the sitting room, dining room and kitchen combined.

For supper that evening my mother had prepared only mush and milk, the famous evening diet for that part of the West. When she learned that we were to entertain the stranger she immediately readjusted things at one end of the table. Here she placed her best china — such as it was — and a few choice articles of diet. The stranger witnessed the readjusting with considerable interest. When all things were ready he was invited to take his place at that part of the table where the china and spreads contrasted rather sharply with the crocks and plain dishes elsewhere.

After my father had given thanks he told the stranger to “help himself.” This was the usual western style of indicating the moment to commence eating. The gentleman nodded politely, at the same time keeping an eye on the rest of us who dipped into the common dish, took out plentiful supplies of mush, and placed the same in our bowls of cool, fresh milk. After watching the movements a few seconds he leaned back in his chair, looked straight at my mother and said: “Madam, what have I done that I cannot have some of this mush and milk too?” This brought out smiles all around the table. He was assured that there was plenty of it and was immediately supplied with a bowl and spoon, and was soon eating mush and milk like the rest of us. It was a pleasure to see that hungry traveler enjoying the best relished meal that he had probably eaten for months. To him it was something unusual to sit in a rude log cabin, with a family of poor yet healthy and happy people, and share with them such simple articles of diet as they could afford.

The evening was spent most pleasantly, for he proved to be a man of fine literary attainments. Little did he think that by coming down to our level he was making on young hearts impressions that would be spoken of fifty years later. He went his way. His name has long since faded from my memory, but his kind and manly conduct will never be forgotten. It is a pleasure to think of a stranger traveling over the country, and leaving behind him traces of kindness that will be fondly remembered long after he has gone to his grave.

ARE WE READY FOR CHRIST TO CALL US HOME?

Someday, I know I will fall asleep, and wake up in that beautiful home Christ has prepared for me, not only for me but for all the faithful. That will be a wonderful day, with no cares, pain or sorrow. All will be gladness when we see the streets paved with gold and be able to see our dear loved ones who have gone on before. It will well repay for all the trials and suffering we have gone through here on this earth. Just think no more sickness, pain nor grief. It will be a time of perfect rest.

Dear ones, the Spirit is still calling. The harvest is ripe. Do we still have workers who are willing to go out to seek the lost? Just think if we could win only one soul for Christ it would be well worth the time we spend. Young people there is a great work for you to do. Go out and help save the lost souls.

The time is passing away very fast. My heart aches for these lost ones. Many times only a few words said to a lost soul will win them to Christ, so they can have peace of mind and be happy serving the Lord.

There is so much joy in serving the Lord. While I was at Conference I could see how happy our young people were serving Christ. Now is the time dear young Christians to let your lights shine to your friends who are not following Christ. The harvest is great, but the time is getting short. Let us each try to win souls for the Lord.

Sister E. M. Alltus

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Ray R. Reed is 302 Percival, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063. His telephone number remains the same.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

You are cordially invited to the Waynesboro revivals September 1 through 8, 1991. Bro. Paul Stump from Englewood, Ohio will be the speaker.

Come and pray the Lord's blessings upon these services that lost souls may be saved.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Our congregation has had a full year thus far. Our Easter Love-feast services were enjoyed by all who attended. We were especially blessed by the coming of Bro. Eugene Kauffman from Dayton, Virginia, who preached for us and officiated on Saturday evening. We appreciate the attendance of members from Newberg, Oregon and southern California also.

For three weekends in a row, we were privileged to attend baptismal services and welcome new members into the Kingdom. Terry and Shari Walker and Naomi Crawford became part of our fellowship. Timothy Cook from the Winterhaven Congregation in Cherry Valley chose to come here for his baptism, and we rejoiced with that family. After Conference David Winger was baptized and Melissa Franklin was received back into our fellowship. The Lord continues to bless!

After Conference, we were happy to host those who stayed over in Modesto for a few days. We had special services on Thursday and Sunday, with sermons by Brethren Harley Flory, Jacob Ness and Eugene Kauffman. We praise the Lord for the wonderful closeness these visits bring, as we meet with fellow saints and become better acquainted. "Blessed be the tie that binds..."

I encourage YOU to come and give us an opportunity to show some loving hospitality. Brother Len Wertz is our chosen evangelist for Revival Meetings October 6 through 13, 1991. Please remember us in your prayers as we all continue to labor together in love.

Until He comes or calls us Home,
Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

We at West Fulton are looking forward to our revival meetings August 9 through 18, Lord willing. Bro. Leonard Wertz, from Quinter, Kansas will be our speaker.

Services each evening 7:45, Sunday 7:30. We invite you all to these services.

Diane Heisey

CONFERENCE TAPES

Tapes are available of the 1991 General Conference. The cost is \$2.00 per tape or \$20.00 per set of nine preaching and two singing tapes. Contact Vera Pike, 12967 SH 108, Wauseon, OH 43567 or call (419) 337-6251.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIV

AUGUST 15, 1991

NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JESUS, GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP

Jesus, great Shepherd of the sheep,
To thee for help we fly;
Thy little flock in safety keep,
For O! the wolf is nigh.

Us into thy protection take,
And gather with thine arm;
Unless the fold we first forsake,
The wolf can never harm.

O do not suffer him to part
The souls that here agree;
But make us of one mind and heart,
And keep us one in thee.

Together let us sweetly live,
Together let us die;
And each a starry crown receive,
And reign above the sky.

- Charles Wesley

THE COUNSEL OF THE BRETHREN

Although each person thinks himself pretty well able to run his own life, still there are times when he may have a few doubts. Situations may arise when he wishes advice on how to proceed. Even though he may have such thoughts, his pride may interfere and keep him from getting that advice. He may decide that he has to go it alone. He may feel his business is his alone and should be revealed to no other or he feels he has so totally destroyed his possibilities that he doesn't want to reveal his follies to anyone else. He may feel he is so totally in charge that he needs to tell no other about his plans and desires or he may fear the ridicule of others. Whatever his reasoning, it is a matter of pride with him. It is either because he is proud that he can handle it all by himself or because he thinks he has thoroughly messed everything up.

He wants nobody's help. He may accuse others of not caring about him, when he refuses every offer of help. He may feel others are too interested in his affairs, which he resents, though they are trying to help him make correct decisions.

He becomes such a loner in his troubled times, that he does not allow God to have a part in his life-affecting situations. He is as possessive of his problems as far as God is concerned as he is with other people. He either feels unworthy of God's interest and help or he feels he is well able to take care of himself. This would be expected of those who do not have a Spiritual relationship with God, but unfortunately there are many Christians who also have the same kind of attitude. Either they do not want to "burden" God with their particular problems or they just want to work everything out in their own way. They want to reserve God for the "big"

THE BIBLE MONITOR

AUGUST 15, 1991

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emergencies of life, not realizing that many of the "big" emergencies have developed because the little situations were not handled properly with God's help.

Prayer is the Christian's means of communication with God. Through prayer he can lay before God all that is troubling him. He may seek some answer directly from God. But God may not answer so directly. He may instead desire that the Christian study His Word for the answer.

It does not matter whether the answer comes through study or through some direct communication, that answer will not be contrary to what is already revealed in the Bible. Since the Holy Spirit moved men to write the Bible, that Spirit cannot lead a person to do something that is contrary to what has already been given. That would be inconsistent. God is consistent in all His dealings with men.

God does not always speak to men directly through answered prayer or indirectly through His Word. Sometimes He speaks and directs through other men. He uses the interest and the advice of Brethren to help men find the right answers to their trying situations. The counsel of the Brethren may not always seem to be God's voice at the moment. This may be because he may not be as apt to want advice, when it requires him to humble himself. Since the Brethren promise to give and receive counsel of each other, it is good when each one can profit from it.

This sharing of counsel is the reason why congregations have council meetings, where each has the opportunity to contribute to the framing of decisions and of making choices for various offices. This is why District Meetings are held to handle the problems of a group of congregations. General Conference is held to make decisions and plans that affect the whole Brotherhood. The counsel needed by the leaders of the Church is the reason for the District Elder's Meeting and the Standing Committee at General Conference. In seclusion the elders can privately seek counsel of one another in facing situations in individual congregations or across the Brotherhood.

But not all counsel is limited to these institutionalized times of sharing counsel. Members can seek the counsel of one another or of the officials whenever there is a need. Our fellow believers, though not trained as counselors, by the Spirit's direction, may give us the very advice that we need. It may not be wrapped up in fancy jargon, but it may be right to the point. What we could not find for ourselves, another may be able to find or able to discourse upon it in a way more pertinent than we thought possible.

Do not be too proud to seek counsel of other believers. Do not refuse to give counsel where you could help another. This giving

and receiving of counsel is a part of doing unto others as we would have others do unto us.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Excuses for Spiritual Laziness"

Millions of people are going into eternity daily without knowing Jesus as their personal Saviour. They need someone to share the message of salvation with them but we are usually too busy being "religious" to go out and gather flowers for the Master's bouquet. In fact, in the three minutes it may take you to read this article, three hundred sixteen people have died and at least three hundred of them were not ready to meet their Maker. We **MUST** assist people in making preparation for a heavenly future instead of a Godless eternity.

In all of God's creation, the human soul is the most valuable. One soul is worth more than the combined wealth of all of the world. "For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world and loose his soul?"

If the soul is the most valuable creation of God then the most important activity is saving a soul from an endless hell.

A Shunamite mother came to the prophet of God one day. The burden of grief rested heavily upon her because the child of promise was dead. Not until Elisha came personally and placed his body on the child's body, his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on the boy's eyes and his hands on the boy's hands... was his life restored. This is representative of total involvement and there had to be the personal touch from a committed believer before life could return to this young person.

There is absolutely no other way to win souls to Jesus except by personal contact. Personal evangelism **MUST** be a part of your life. Saving souls has to be a top priority.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST WORKS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS. From the calling of His first disciple until the saving of the thief on the cross, Jesus put in His time winning men and women... one by one... to Himself. From the carpenter shop to the cross He gave Himself for the cause of others. His outreach was one to one... preaching to individuals such as Nicodemus or the woman at the wall. He sought out individuals... crowds sought Him. Men tend to lump mankind in the mass... God singles them out person by person and that is the divine way of communication.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM WAS A GREAT WORK OF JESUS' DISCIPLES. One of the first to accept the gracious invitation of the

Man of Nazareth to "come and see" was a man named Andrew. He then told his brother Simon... and so began the "ripple effect." Interestingly, Andrew is not talked about extensively in God's Word but Peter, his brother, was outstanding in God's service. The one whom you introduce to Jesus may be His man for the time and have a dynamic ministry for Him. That means everything as you will have a hand in the genesis of his ministry.

Jesus found Philip and he followed Him. Philip found Nathanael. And so the progression goes... right on down to the 1990's.

Have you ever had the experience of introducing a young couple and of seeing them become close friends? Then one day that friendship blossomed into love and they soon stood at the altar to become one in marriage. That is wonderful but how much greater experience to introduce a precious soul to Jesus Christ and see the maturation of that relationship.

And the church grew! By 100 A.D. there were around 500,000 Christians and in 200 A.D. there were around 2 million. Evangelism is not optional with us... we must evangelize or perish! Let us be warned in the conservative church.

There was a group of early Christians which increased with amazing rapidity known as the Waldensian Brethren. In their writings we find this statement: "He who has been a disciple for seven days looks out for someone he may teach in turn, and so there is a continuous increase." Imagine that! One who has been a disciple only seven days was expected to be a winner of souls. How long have you been a Christian?

PERSONAL EVANGELISM IS THE MOST REWARDING WORK IN THE WORLD. The thrill of Christian accomplishment is wonderful. And, great remuneration is received in the gratitude of those who are won. Just look at the smile of the face and understand you have introduced a happy way of life... a grip of the hand expresses a better way of life... an expression of gratitude shows someone is now united in Christ... and this is your salary. Of course there is also an eternal award in being a soul-winner. Daniel says they will "shine in the brightness of the firmament."

PERSONAL EVANGELISM IS PART OF GOD'S PLAN FOR US. It is divine. The last expressed desire of Jesus was that His disciples would go and make disciples of all nations. Jesus said, "Go!" How we have reversed that divine order! We get so bogged down with big physical plants, buildings, and methods that we lose track of the fulness of this teaching.

There is an old story told of Czar Peter, the "mad czar" of Russia. He had a royal bodyguard, the elite troop and he was inordinately proud of them. One day he called them to him for inspection. As

he surveyed them he found one of the soldiers has a button unbuttoned . One of elite was careless in his dress. In a fit of rage, he made them do an "about face" and told them to "march." They did... northward through the city and through the countryside. It is said they marched until they died in the frozen wastes of Siberia because their commander never gave them the order to stop.

As a soldier of the cross, the Captain of our salvation, has said to us, "Go!" He has never given the command to stop. We must go... must teach... must preach... must win souls for the Saviour. Christian religion ends with the individual. Personal evangelism is God's plan for us and if we fail in it... He has no other way. **EVANGELISM IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL THE EVANGELIZED BECOME EVANGELISTS.**

Brother Len Wertz

1991 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Saturday P.M.

Bro. Wayne Burgess opened. II Timothy 3. We need to maintain the Holy Bible. It is true. We know God as we know the Holy Word. Many are deceived today.

Bro. Mark Cordrey. I John 1:3, Ephesians 2:10. Who am I Lord? Who are we in Christ? "Quickened" means to make alive. The Ephesian Brethren had changed lives. Before they were dead in their sins. For Christ's sake we are new creatures when we know Him and accept Him. When we have accepted the Lord it is very special to us. The world is walking around spiritually dead. We are alive in Christ. People abuse their earthly possessions. We must work and provide for ourselves. We must build up treasures in Heaven and not earthly treasures, while here in this life. Jesus said, "Where your treasures are your heart will be also." It is possible to look religious on the outside but it may not be in your heart. Job had great integrity for God. He did not give up. The Apostle Paul said, "Do all things in the Lord." We should not lose relationship with the Lord. The Holy Word is very necessary for us to read and study to help us know who we are in Christ. We are going to need the Holy Word. When we are in spiritual need where do we go? We should go to the Holy Word for comfort. The choice is yours and mine. Are you living for a Heavenly goal in the end? Lets be ready when Christ comes.

Bro. James Myers. Providing What is Acceptable Unto the Lord. Ephesians 5:1-17. Who are we? We are followers of Christ. Love is the greatest desire to receive. We need to prove in our lives what is acceptable unto the Lord. What does the Lord think of our lives? God has given us a list of principles in the Holy Word. The Holy

Word means to work for perfection. We want to be average, this is not perfect. Examine our lives for excellence for the Lord. Jesus Christ the Light reveals perfection in the sight of God. It's only by the fear of the Lord that's branded on our conscience that helps us stay true to Him. The most important thing in our life is staying and being approved by God. We cannot afford to be asleep spiritually. We must be alive in Christ. If we are looking for time we should put Christ first in our life. What are you striving for? Are you striving to get as close to worldiness as you can, or are you trying to stay away from worldly sins? Do our lives stand up for our Heavenly Father? We are to do all things to the glory of God. Who is Lord of our life? We must live according to the will of God. This should mean every thing in our lives.

Bro. Jason Reed closed. What attracts us? We are here to worship God. The Holy Word is life for us. God said, "Set no evil thing before your eyes."

Saturday Evening.

Elder Galen Litfin opened. John 5:1-17. Jesus had the desire to do his Father's will. God's wrath is being stored up. God's Word is before us. There is a lot of rebelliousness of man. Where will they stand before the judgment of God. Do we let the light of Christ shine in our lives?

Elder Jacob Ness. Conscientious Objectors with a Question Mark. The Apostle Paul told Timothy to preach the Word. II Timothy 4:2. Moses chose to suffer his afflictions with God and to serve God's people. There are four or five mobilizations of Government pertaining to the draft. Form 9 and 22 are for conscientious objectors to fill out. He will be asked about his faith in God. Why he will not fight. Every conscientious objector may come before the Board. Appeals could be used by conscientious objectors if necessary. What is a conscientious objection? The Draft is on stand-by right now. What is your belief? Be ready to answer all questions including your religious training, illustrations and showing your interest is important. It's recommended young men have our church form to fill in for conscientious objectors. It must be completed and signed by Elders and Ministers of your local congregation. It is suggested that it be put in a sealed envelope. A Civil Service Board book can be purchased for \$25.00. A small booklet can be purchased for \$1.25. We get interested when we talk about Christ. Are we good soldiers for Christ.

Elder Robert Carpenter closed. There are many scriptures about taking up the Sword but not killing. Can you stand up and be firm for nonresistance. Jesus said "Return good for evil." This Doctrine is for every one of us.

Sunday Morning Worship

Elder Warren Smith. Psalms 19. David was a sheep herder. He was outside and enjoyed the beauties of God's creation. Many are taking out the Word of God. God's Word is perfect like His creation of the world.

Sunday A.M.

Elder Frank Shaffer opened. Romans 8:1-14. Serving God we have a future to look forward to.

Children's Bible Study - Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37.

Elder Joseph Flora. Continuity. Romans 11:21-22. The Apostle Paul after many years still had great faith that Israel could see the way to serve God and His Son. We must be faithful to serve God. Lets not get too many "ifs" in our life. People try to change God's Word to suit their way of life. Let God be true as the Bible reads, any other way is a lie. The Apostle Paul worked faithfully for God all his lifetime. We need to look back many years in the church and find ourselves where we are today. We should learn from history in the church. We would rather see a sermon lived than hear a sermon today. The early church realized they needed a body of believers. The result of a breakdown in the church today is lack of discipline. The Bible speaks of the little foxes that spoil the vine. Separation from the world does not just mean the dress but is the heart right? If the hearts right we will live according to God's will. We ought to be washed in the Holy Word so we can live closer to Christ.

Elder Michael Wray. Revelation 3:9-11. Calling the Church to Repentance. Jesus walked to the cross, died and arose from the grave and came back again and ascended to Heaven. What must we do to be saved? Repent and be baptized. John received while on the Isle of Patmos seven messages to take back to the Churches of Asia. Our Lord's last word was to repent. Jesus said, "Behold I stand at your door and knock." Apostasy has always been a problem in the church. Apostasy has existed in every church history. The Apostle Paul said, "Some will depart from the faith." The Apostle Paul said, "Perilous times will come." As apostasy spreads and grows in the churches there are many books we can read about organized Christianity. Apostle Paul said, "They are forever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Alexander Mack was faithful to start a church for the Brethren to live true to the Holy Bible. We are followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "If any man love me he will keep my word." The Antibaptists said, "We take the New Testament as our creed." It all totals up to: 1. Repentance; 2. Confession of sin; 3. Must be willing to renounce sin; 4. We must be willing to make restitution for all

wrongs; 5. Submission to the Lord Jesus Christ; 6. Separation from the world; 7. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elder William Heisey closed. We must beware of the sin going around about us. We must stay on that straight and narrow way. There are many places we can get off that straight and narrow way. Let us renew our minds that we be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let us study the Word that we live true and faithful.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

RECONCILIATION

I use this subject in terms of US making peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Back, near the beginning of time, man sinned against God. Through man's sinning, he fell from God. It so hurt God, that it grieved Him that He had ever made man.

In due time, God saw the need for a way that sinful man could be redeemed, brought back in fellowship with Him again. God provided His only Son, Jesus, to make the supreme sacrifice upon Calvary's Cross. There, through His ignominious death, He made full atonement for your sins and my sins.

Even though man sinned against God, "... God so loved the world (us), that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. God's Son, only, could fulfill the great and only plan of salvation recognized and accepted by God.

In Isaiah 53, the prophet gives a very clear vision of the supreme sacrifice Christ was required to make. Seriously, think with me what it took on Christ's part that we might be reconciled to God.

In this chapter Isaiah states that Christ "IS DESPISED AND REJECTED OF MEN." How Christ must have felt. He, who had done so much for man, to improve his physical life and then shed His blood, dying on the Cross to save his soul from the penalty of death, now in return, is despised and rejected by man for whom He died. "DESPISED" means to look down upon with contempt. "REJECT" means to refuse to hear or accept. Do we wonder today why masses of people DESPISE and REJECT our Lord? They do not love Him enough to follow and obey Him. God's Word specifically states in John 1:11, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." In Luke 19:14, "But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us."

Possibly, at the Crucifixion, His TORTMENTORS, His REJECTORS, His DESPISERS and ENEMIES displayed their greatest

abhorrence for Christ. He gave them and us a powerful example of how to deal with our enemies. Matthew 5:44, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" Jesus, dying upon the cross, gave us an example of how to fulfill the above scripture when He prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

"He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." He wept over Jerusalem because of their unbelief. He wept when Lazarus died. He knew personal grief and had compassion on them that had grief. Because it was not His will that any man lose his soul, He gave His life on the cross as a supreme sacrifice to provide the only way to bring reconciliation between man and God.

"He was despised and we esteemed him not." Instead of thanking Jesus for His noble act in dying for our sins, not His, He was mocked, scorned, whipped and very shamefully mistreated. IT WAS THE PRICE CHRIST PAID FOR OUR RECONCILIATION AND REDEMPTION.

"He bore our grief and carried our sorrows." It weighted Him down, when He saw the hungry, the sick and the naked. It greatly touched Him, to the extent that He fed, healed and clothed them, going as far as raising the dead to life. When man's physical problems touched Jesus' heart, one need not wonder why He wanted to be a mediator between man and God. He does not want any individual to pay the penalty for sin, when He provided a way of escape.

"He was smitten of God and wounded for our transgressions." Not for His own. Jesus knew no sin. God laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. He bore in His body for the sins of all people. He was and is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the people. HE BORE THEM ON CALVARY'S TREE.

"He was bruised for OUR iniquities." John 19:1, "Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him." Josephus states, "They tied Jesus to a pillar and publicly whipped Him with numerous fangs. Each fang contained stones or other sharp objects which bruised Christ's perfect body. HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES.

"The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, with His stripes we are healed." He was chastised that we might have peace with God. He was lashed that we might be healed. Humans are the ones who strayed away like sheep. Man left God's path to follow his own. Yet God laid on Christ the guilt and sins of every one of us.

"He was oppressed and afflicted," yet He never complained a word. He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep

before her shearers is dumb, He opened not His mouth, He stood silent before the ones who condemned Him.

"He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people was He stricken." From mock trials, they led Him to His death. Who among the people realized it was for their sins that He was condemned to death? In the prime of life, Jesus was cut off, from the land of the living.

"He made His grave with the wicked, He was numbered with the transgressors." On the Cross, He was publicly compared to the two thieves. Truly, He was put to grief.

"He shall see the travail of His soul." "Travail" means — pain, agony, anything hard to go through or endure. Any wonder the Word says, "HE POURED OUT HIS SOUL UNTO DEATH." Not only His blood, His life, but His very soul. HE GAVE ALL OF HIMSELF FOR US.

"By His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many." Here we see JUSTIFICATION and RECONCILIATION. Man rated Jesus as a sinner, yet He satisfied God by making full atonement for the sinner.

"He bare the sins of many." Your sins and my sins were a part of the load Jesus carried to the old rugged Cross.

"He made intercession for the transgressor." Not only during His suffering on the Cross, but, He is now at the right hand of God, interceding in our behalf.

Can we see through the eye of faith, that which took place in the PAST, that which Isaiah saw and prophesied for the future?

My fervent prayer is, that since it is through the suffering and death of Jesus, that we can be reconciled to God, LET US LOVE HIM MORE, BE A BETTER WITNESS AND TRULY LIVE FOR HIM WHO DIED FOR US.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

THE DANGERS OF THE INDEPENDENT CHURCH

Acts 15:6, "And the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter."

This article came about as a result of the writer's experience as a member and official of two independent groups over a period of twelve years. We became familiar with the innerworkings of this type of group, and though we cannot say that all groups of this type are alike, there always remains a potential for heresy.

The scriptures tell us that Paul ordained elders in every city. The Christian church was established in every city. Each church, by

the help of the Holy Spirit, was self-governing, but occasionally problems arose not within the capabilities of the local governing body. These would have to be dealt with in a conference setting, with officials coming together and representing each church. Acts 15, which we use as a pattern for every council, gives a good example of how these meetings should be conducted.

Over the world there are thousands of small, independent churches that cannot benefit from this type of scriptural council. We have learned from scripture that man substitutes counterfeits for God-given things that they do not possess or have lost. For instance, form and ritual are often substituted for the Holy Spirit. If there is not a larger brotherhood, as with the independent church, often the leadership will grow more autocratic and dictatorial in order to maintain control of their people. There are also more opportunities to get off the track and into non-scriptural practices. One jarring example comes to mind: Jim Jones and the thousand people who died in the Guyana tragedy. This man, at one time, was a conservative minister who preached the Bible. What happened? It is easy to see that over the years his motives changed. He no longer served the Lord, but himself. Also, we must remember that he became "independent", which essentially meant that he had no men to answer to. He is now answering to God for his sins, but if he would have had a conference behind him he may have been stopped before all the others died.

What is wrong when a church leader has to threaten and cajol and coerce his people and force others to spy on "troublemakers"? It happens all the time. Is a church a true example of Christian fellowship when people live in fear of their leaders? I believe the leaders should be loved and respected and looked up to, and followed as long as they follow Christ. In order for a person to be a Christian follower, he must know what the scripture says. He must hold himself and his leaders up to the bright light of God's Word. A leader has to be more than just a strong personality. His leadership from the beginning has to be scriptural. Often, weaknesses in leadership are overlooked because most people think that the leader's good qualities will offset the weaknesses. Elders, ministers, and deacons should be examined scripturally because they are examples both to their people and to the world.

I admit I was attracted by many aspects of the independent church as a youth. They seemed more spiritually alive and compassionate regarding the souls of men. They also gave people the impression that they were more of a family. It is true that independent groups attract zealous souls, and that often whole families will join groups of this kind. Well-meaning souls get caught up in small, independent groups that look good on the

surface but behind the scenes use fear, threats, and coercion to further themselves. The "family atmosphere" rarely extends past the family in charge, because in many of these groups there are two classes of membership: those in the family and those who are not. This is probably because there is more of a tangible hold on members of the family than with others.

Those who are zealous for the souls of men would be better served to become part of a group which upholds the scripture and operates within a scriptural framework: without any hidden agendas. The church should be open before the world so that everyone clearly knows we have no other agenda but to spread, uphold, and defend the gospel. We do not seek to hold people in bondage or profit by their income. We do seek to see people saved and prepared for the Kingdom of God through Christ Jesus.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1931

LOVE

Sister O. T. Jamison

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." (I John 4:7)

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." (I John 4:16-17)

In the above scriptures we are exhorted to love one another, by the beloved apostle John. I am wondering how much we love our brethren. Just as we love our brethren determines about how we love the church.

Brother! Sister! How much do you love the church? How much do you love your brother?

Our actions show how much we love and how anxious we are for our brother's welfare and influence, and for that of our beloved church. If we love our brother we will not be found trying to hurt his influence, and especially our true ministering brethren. I wonder if we stop to consider what a grievous offense, to speak evil (love thinketh no evil) of God's anointed, and what a great hindrance it may be to God's cause.

"We know we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." (I John 3:14-15)

"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." (I John 4:21)

Be it remembered, dear reader, the church needs our very best we can give. And if ever the world needed a firm, unwavering beacon to light the way to that glad eternity it is now.

Oh! why can we not live more sanctified, more righteous, more holy and more perfect through faith and obedience? Can we comprehend the church's high and holy position? She is cast out by the world, but who occupies the throne of the Majesty in the heavens? The Lord Jesus made himself responsible for her on the cross.

Oh! that all who form a part of such a highly privileged body were more impressed of their great responsibility and character here! I repeat again our actions determine how much we love.

"But who so shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea." (Matt. 18:6)

Beware! brother, sister, that we do not offend one of God's humble ones. If we have been guilty we better haste to make reconciliation. When we love we take great care not to offend.

"Jesus said unto him. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Matt. 22:37-39)

"If a man say, I love God, and loveth not his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (I John 4:20) "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (I John 4:8)

THE FUTURE

There's an unknown path before me
And yet I fear it not,
I know that all the years gone by,
Whate're has been my lot,
That a kind and Heavenly Father,
Planned out the way for me;
And I know that in the future
Watched over, I shall be.

Yes, I know God's care and kindness
Will ever with me stay,
To assist me on life's journey
And brighten up my way.
So welcome! unknown future,
Bring me whate're you will —
With God's loving hand to guide me
I shall be cared for still.

- Cora Baker Hall

Selected by Meriam Pletcher

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview Congregation plans to have one week of revival meetings, September 15 through 22. Bro. Tom St. John will be our evangelist. There will be all day services Saturday, September 21, with Lovefeast at 6 P.M.

We give an invitation to all to come and worship with us.

Sister Miriam Reed, Cor.

THANK YOU

We want to thank all the many members throughout the Brotherhood for all the beautiful 50th Wedding Anniversary cards. We appreciate every one of them very deeply. May the Lord bless you.

Brother and Sister William Heisey

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1991

September 1 - The Message of God - I John 1:1-10.

1. What is God's message to us? verse 5.
2. Why was this message given? verse 4.

September 8 - An Advocate with the Father - I John 2:1-7.

1. What is the role of an advocate?
2. How is Christ our propitiation? Romans 3:25.

September 15 - Love Not the World - I John 2:8-17.

1. What is "the world"?
2. What results when we love the world? verses 15-17.

September 22 - Anti Christ and the Holy Spirit - I John 2:18-19.

1. Define antichrist. verses 22-23.
2. Who is our protection against this evil?
John 16:13, I John 2:27-29.

September 29 - Sons of God - I John 3:1-10.

1. How can we be called the Sons of God?
2. How should we respond to this privilege? verse 3.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1991

September 1 - Straight Paths - Deut. 5:32-33, Jos. 1:8-9, Prov. 4:26-27, Heb. 12:13-14.

1. What is your view of the "straight path"?
2. Why is it important to walk the straight path? Matt. 7:14.

September 8 - Witnessing - Isaiah 62:6, Mark 5:18-20, II Tim. 1:8-13, I Pet. 3:10-16.

1. Who are we witnesses for?
2. What motivated Paul to witness? II Cor. 5:14-21.

September 15 - Our Speech - Prov. 17:27-28, Matt. 5:33-37, Col. 4:6, Titus 2:7-8.

1. What is our speech a reflection of? Pro. 23:7, Matt. 5:34.
2. How powerful is our speech? Pro. 18:21, 16:24.

September 22 - Doubts - Matt. 14:23-36, John 20:24-31, Acts 12:11-16.

1. What is God's solution for doubt? Mark 4:40, Matt. 14:31.
2. How can we increase our faith? Luke 17:5, Rom. 10:17.

September 29 - Courage - II Cor. 16:13-14, Phil. 4:11-14, I Tim. 4:12, II Tim. 2:1-15.

1. Why do we need courage?
2. Why can we take courage in the Lord? Deut. 31:6, Josh. 1:9.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXVIV

SEPTEMBER 1, 1991

NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, Hail thee as the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Blossoming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother, — All who live in love are thine:
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the Joy Divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
Father-love is reigning o'er us, Brother-love binds man to man
Ever singing march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music lifts us sunward In the triumph song of life.

- Henry Van Dyke

IF ONLY...

How many times do we hear others, or even catch ourselves, saying what they would accomplish "if only..."? They have a noble desire to do some service for the Lord or others or even to improve their own lot, but there is this qualification attached to their actually doing it. The condition may be rooted in the past or it may be some present situation. Whatever the reason it will deny them what they desire to have or to accomplish in the future. With the accumulation of earthly goods, this may not have very dramatic effects, but when applied to Spiritual things, it could have eternal results. It could mean the difference between Heaven and Hell.

The "if only..." excuses usually attempt to place the blame for the absence of service or effect on someone else or at least on conditions that may seem unpleasant. We are sure we would be more aggressive in doing the tasks we know we should be doing "if only...". Our particular hindrance may be any one of a great variety. We may feel hindered because of the area where we grew up, our parents were not perfect, we did not have the educational advantages we wanted or the financial resources we would have liked to have had. We reassure ourselves and others that "if only..." we had had these various advantages we would now be accomplishing so much more in our lives, personally and Spiritually. There is no doubt that these elements do affect people's lives, present and future, but too often these things become crutches and excuses to excuse the failure to accomplish what needs to be done.

The task itself may deter us. We look at what needs to be done and we are overwhelmed. It just seems too big. There is no way it could ever be accomplished. So rather than make a weak attempt

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to do what is possible, nothing at all is done. Each task can be broken into smaller parts. Each of those parts then can be attacked and in the end the huge, overwhelming task can be done. The task may overwhelm us when we try to do too much. Rather than trying to do it all, we should take a realistic part of the task and work at it. Not a one of us can bear the responsibility of sharing the Gospel with the whole world, but we can each share the Gospel with a few people in our families or neighborhoods. We cannot be all things to all people, so we have to do what we can do best. This is why God has given us individual talents. These talents when added to the diverse talents of others will total the talents needed to accomplish the task.

Bearing in mind that we cannot accomplish all at one time, we can get rid of our "if only..." excuses and get busy. If the task is to share the Gospel with our close associates, then we should not be saying "if only I had been born with a better speaking voice, or a more charming personality, or a better knowledge of human psychology, then I would go out and share more readily." It is likely that even with those advantages, you would still hesitate and find more "if onlys...". If asked to teach a class or lead singing or to write an article, or serve in an office in the Church, do not bother with "if onlys..." to excuse yourself from the work. If others have enough confidence in you to ask you, then it is likely that they see you have the basic talents needed and the Lord has directed in your choice. Even if there are technical qualifications that have a part in tasks to be done, these often can be learned, at least well enough to get by until one more talented is found to take that place.

It is not pleasant to have to attack the "if onlys..." in our lives. We all have them. It means we have to do tasks that are not easy for us, but just the effort needed to do them will help us to overcome the problem within ourselves and make us more available for future service. When we have overcome that very logical excuse that holds us back, then we are better able to attack the next hindrance in our lives.

Jesus met many people with various excuses during His Earthly ministry. Some were in their estimation too rich, others too poor, others too good, while others were too bad. Each of these He dealt with. We are no different than they were. We make excuses. We hesitate to take up the work before us. As we look at the Book of Acts, we see a lot of people who lost their "if onlys..." and went ahead in a work that "turned the world upside-down".

Let us turn our "if onlys..." into positive thoughts that would say, "if only we are doing God's will and following the Spirit's direction as revealed in the Bible, then we can accomplish the task given us."

1991 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

Continued from August 15, 1991 Issue

Sunday P.M.

Elder William Carpenter opened, Isaiah 58.

Elder Henry Walker, Hebrews 12:29. God a Consuming Fire. There is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun. God's Word is sure and forever. Why do we need a Revival? God is a loving God, and a God of righteousness. He is a just God, a God of a consuming fire. The fire of the Lord can speak to us. Nothing can come up a power against God. Elijah prayed to God. The people cried out He is the God. He can answer by fire. Everyone spoke in their language. God will divide the sheep from the goats in the judgment. Do we know what it is to have our faith tried? Are we going to be on fire for the Lord? If the Lord would come to your house how many would He find faithful? Do we cherish God's Word? Christ is going to come again. He will come as a flame of fire. Are we going to be a part of that church when He comes or will we be crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on us. Have we made God number one in our hearts. Because God's Son died on the cross we can live.

Elder Dale Jamison, II Timothy 3:1-5. The World Tomorrow. The War on Drugs and other sins are here. Could we be guilty of the times today? We make great achievements in many ways. God is looking for a people with hearts He can change. We put things off. Some day peace will cover all the Earth. God has all control. Jesus came to this earth and became our Savior. Hope does not lie in yesterday but right now. We need to accept the cross of Jesus. We must build on a solid foundation. What is morally wrong? There are many sins here on earth. We must have God's Holy Word to hang onto. We must take time for God. The Lord asks for all willing hearts to be in peace with Him.

Elder Edward Johnson closed. We need to take time to pray.

Sunday Evening.

Elder Eugene Kauffman opened, Matthew 18:1-4. The church is in desperate need of plain simple teaching. Christ was here to redeem the lost. The Lord leaves us here to witness to the lost.

Elder Paul Stump, I Corinthians 4:15. Godly Fathers. A godly father can help to teach our children. We should be glad for a godly heritage. We need to be a living testimony to our children. A mature man is one who walks with God every day. A father should be filled with wisdom. The father should be the leader of the home. The family that prays together stays together.

Bro. Jason Reed, Proverbs 24:3-4. Proverbs 29:18. The Vision of Family. A message to the young people. If Satan can get the family

to fall he is the winner. The family is established by God. God's purpose for the family is to enlarge the population. Children are the heritage of the Lord. A successful home should have the wisdom of God. Understanding and knowledge come with the help of God. God's people should be getting stronger and stronger. If we lack wisdom let us ask of God. God's Holy Word is the number one Book. Keep your morals pure. Guard your heart today and keep it pure. What you do with your heart today will be before you your whole life. Let your affections come from above. Be not deceived, God is not mocked.

Elder Galen Litfin closed, Proverbs 3:1, 2:8-9.

Monday Morning Worship

Elder Robert Carpenter, I Peter 2. Overcomers. As God's people we need to be overcomers. As we have difficulties come up in our lives, are we going to be overcomers? As we go in the World let us be overcomers by the help of God.

Monday A.M.

Bible Study - Adults - Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God, Matthew 6:19-34.

Children - Cornelius and Peter Make a Discovery, Acts 10.

Bro. Mark Cordrey opened, Psalms 33. It is pleasant to dwell together in unity.

Bro. Fred Johnson, Jeremiah 6:16. Beware of the Bypass. It seems the old paths are not good enough. We are working and many times keeping so busy we have not enough time for the Lord. People are looking for new ways. What is wrong with the old ways? What time are we leaving for the Lord? What kind of bypass are we using? Are we rushing through this life? We are bypassing sin. Sin doesn't have as rough an edge as it did. Weakness and growing pains are new names for sins. Growing pains can get us into a lot of trouble. Alcoholism is known as a disease in the world. The world around renamed it. It is sin. Many churches accept adultery. Adultery is the same as it ever was, it is still sin. Sin doesn't have that rough edge any more. The wages of sin is still death. There are many cases of death where sin is the cause. If we are sowing in sin we are going to reap death. Do we compromise and are taken in sin? Satan works easily in our minds. We are bypassing things in this life that are important. We can not allow any sin in our lives. We must get Satan out of our lives. God will help us if we put our trust in Him. We must be careful and not teach our children any bypasses in life. Many churches of the world bypass sin and allow many sinful lives in the church. Christ chose to die for us. Some people of the world say Christ isn't going to come again. The world about us is bypassing. They will not be ready for Christ's coming.

It will be a great day for the church when Christ comes to call the faithful home.

Bro. Rod Renicker closed. Christian living is doing what you need to do. When we turn to the Lord let us walk in His steps and stay in the old paths.

Monday P.M.

Bro. Rod Renicker opened, James 5:13-18. The prayer of faith will save the sick if it be the Lord's will. Suffering can be Spiritual sickness. Are you willing to pray fervently to the Lord?

Bro. Ronald Marks, Deuteronomy 22:8. Who's Responsibility. We need to look back to Calvary, from there we build for the Lord. Teaching in the home will make the battlement more secure. We must have the heart of Christ to be examples to our family. Speed kills lots of people on the highways. We know the increase in drunk driving is worse for many reasons. We are living by shedding much innocent blood. God's Word gives the prevention of these sins. Battlements in our life are to help us. We are glad the old Brethren took a stand on the plain coat and the prayer veil with the strings (ties) as the church Polity Booklet states. We can build up the battlements of the church for our protection.

Bro. Wayne Burgess, I Kings 19:1-21. Who Will Fill Their Shoes. Who will stand and lead the church. Elijah was a great man of God. The Lord chasteneth those whom He loveth. The Lord told Elijah to think why he was in the cave. We are still followers of God when we worship Him instead of Baal or Satan. Christ died on the cross for our sins. If we refuse to die to ourselves we cannot be born again. He will fill a church to Himself. There is hope for the church. Jesus died for the Church. We have put on Jesus Christ and we can assure ourselves of that true church. Christ will return for that true church.

Bro. Jason Reed closed. It takes a Daniel to not be deceived. Daniel was a man of God. Be a Daniel and all things will prove out for good.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Excuses for Spiritual Laziness... part 2"

In the last issue, we worked to share the importance of personal evangelism. But, WHY DON'T WE PRACTICE IT MORE FULLY IN THE CONSERVATIVE CHURCH? If it is the greatest work of our life... of the life of Jesus and His disciples... then why isn't it our top priority?

Now, I desire to be realistic but I believe we all are full of excuses why we are not personally involved in this work. Many of these excuses are pretty flimsy if we examine them closely.

Personal evangelism should be our primary occupation. There should be nothing unnatural about being a soul winner. We talk about what we enjoy most and share what we feel is worthwhile. We read a good book and can't wait to tell everyone about it. We FIND A METHOD to talk about it. We have all known professing Christians who could run on for a couple of hours about some unimportant thing that has happened in their life but they become strangely tongue-tied when it comes to talking about Jesus Christ. Brothers and Sisters, these things ought not to be. We are too much like the rivers up north... frozen at the mouth. Only God can kindle a fire and help us thaw out and talk more about Him.

Why don't we practice personal evangelism? Is it because we lack opportunity? No! One of us stands on someone's road to God every day! Every day we have opportunities to say a good word for the Lord if we will just do it.

Why don't we practice personal evangelism? Is it because we are afraid? Afraid of what? The Lord loves you and you are an ambassador of the Son of God. "Lo, He is with us always." REMEMBER, THE TASK BEFORE YOU IS NOT AS GREAT AS THE POWER BEHIND YOU. Jesus will guide you in this work if you ask Him to. Silence is NOT golden... it is just plain yellow in the case of not using the power of the One who saves souls.

Why don't we practice personal evangelism? Is it because we think that man does not want to hear? Friends, the world is dying for what YOU have. How many are there who need your message? The world is suffering... physically and spiritually. They need Jesus. We stand in the presence of a dying humanity... eternally lost and damned and only we have the real cure. We have no right to be selfish with Jesus! Could it be that no greater crime can be committed by man than to have truth in our possession and refuse to pass it on?

Why don't we practice personal evangelism? Is it because we don't have time? Is something else more important? Who owns time? If we are too busy to save souls, we are just too busy!

Do we not share because we have found nothing worth sharing? We must demonstrate to an unbelieving world that we have found a formula that works. Probably a bald man might make a poor salesman for hair tonic! See the comparison? Of the early followers of Jesus, it was said that it was "perceived that they had been with Jesus." The world will always marvel when it takes knowledge that we have been with Jesus and that "we walk the walk and not just talk the walk."

Are you ready for evangelism? Will you take an active part in this great work? If you are not ready, will you get ready? Revival must come first... then evangelism will follow. I am convinced that we can increase the number in the fellowship of the Faith as we challenge ourselves and commit ourselves to introduce others to our Master.

In the wall which surrounded the city of Jerusalem there was a gate known as the "sheep gate"... and nearby was the pool of Bethesda. There, the sick and blind clustered each day waiting for the moving of the water by an angel of the Lord. This would bring them healing of whatever disease they had.

This pool was not a very pleasant place. The air was filled with the shrieks and moans of the suffering and dying. A terrible stench must have arisen from the feverish bodies, festering sores, and human waste. Clouds of flies would have been everywhere about the pool. I am sure we would not have chosen to be there but Jesus was there. He walked among this wasted bit of humanity and healed and ministered to them. At one point He healed a man who had been infirm for thirty-eight years. The man had told Jesus that there was no one to place him into the pool. So Jesus offered to make him whole right where he was.

I hear souls crying out from a Christ-hungry universe... "I have no man to put me into the pool." May God help us. May no man be able to point an accusing finger at us and say this of any of us. Take someone with you... and have a part in the greatest work that you can do... evangelism.

Must I go, and empty handed,
Must I meet my Saviour so?
Not one soul with which to greet Him,
Must I empty handed go?

Brother Len Wertz

A PRAYER OF HABAKKUK

Habakkuk 3:1-2, "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth. O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."

Habakkuk is considered to be one of the minor prophets of the Old Testament because of the length of the book. Many who have attended church for years would probably not even know who Habakkuk was if you asked them. While it is true that most of the major prophecies concerning Jesus Christ are to be found in the books considered to be major prophets, we believe that II Timothy

3:16-17 refers to the minor prophets as well. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

There are some "Habakkuks" in our day. There are also some "Isaiahs, Jeremiahs and Ezeiels." The Habakkuks preach short sermons as a general rule and are seldom very emotional. The Isaiahs, Jeremiahs and Ezeiels are more apt to preach longer sermons with a loud voice and many motions. What is important is not how long or how loud a minister preaches but if he is preaching the truth of Scripture.

Habakkuk could not only preach but he also knew how to pray. Some of the most important "sermons" ever preached were not from behind the pulpit but on one's knees before a Holy God. It is true that God uses preaching to convict sinners and to renew the Saints. But a good preacher is also one who can pray with power.

The word "Shigionoth" is a musical term. Our prayers are as sweet music to the ears of God. It is also true that many of the hymns that we sing are, in reality, prayers to God. Unfortunately, many of us mouth the words of the grand old songs of the Church, (We especially like the black Brethren Hymnal), but do not mean a word that we sing!

Habakkuk prayed, "O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid." We need more of the fear of God in our lives today. The love of God is sweet. The joy of the Lord is our strength. But Proverbs 9:10 instructs us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Man has given Holy Scripture their own interpretations because they have lost the fear of the Lord. They boldly deny the cardinal doctrines of the New Testament and teach that much of the Old Testament is only myths and analogies. Millions of dollars are spent each year by so called "Christian" America government to "prove" the life of evolution and destroy the truth of Creation. And it would seem as if the majority of those in church leadership are giving their approval!

He then prayed, "O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years." If ever we have needed a revival of the work of the Lord it is today. It is God who must do the reviving and He must do the work. But we are to be the instruments that He uses. Before God can revive His work we must have a revival in the hearts of the people who call themselves Christians. God is sovereign but He will never over-rule the free will of mankind. We must rid ourselves of the things of this world and seek heavenly goals and desires.

Habakkuk added, "in the midst of the years make known." God has answered this portion of his prayer. God has fully revealed

Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. To have true revival Jesus Christ must be lifted up and glorified. Nothing can come before the Son of God. Our church doctrines should be Bible doctrines that were taught by Jesus Christ directly or through His apostles. Church traditions should be for one purpose only, to bring our lives into line with the wishes of God. The commandments of man are never to supercede the commandments of Holy Scripture. The New Testament is to be our final authority in all matters.

Habakkuk ends his prayer with the words, "in wrath remember mercy." Yes, the wrath of God is very real. We cannot "do our own thing" and expect to escape the wrath of God. God sent His wrath upon the world at the time of Noah. He destroyed Sodom because of their sinful ways. He warns us in Hebrews 3:11-12, "So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Sinners will feel the wrath of God in Hell. "Brethren" who depart from the living God will join them. But, praise God, His mercy is also real. In His mercy He sent down the Lord Jesus Christ to shed that holy blood for you and for me. If we seek to live for Him and love Him with all our heart His mercy will be extended in place of His wrath.

If you have never experienced the forgiveness of sin come before God in a prayer of repentance today. If you are a child of His pray each and every day for strength to be faithful and true. Like Habakkuk, we need to pray that God will bring revival in our hearts and thus revive the work of God in the world through the Church.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1931

PRAYER AND THE ANGELS

B. F. Masterson

In the eleventh chapter of first Corinthians, Paul lays down an order on how to appear when praying or prophesying, "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort." (I Cor. 14:3). Prayer is talking to God. He talks to us through the Holy Spirit and the Word. We talk to the Father through Christ, our mediator, the middleman. "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." (John 14:14) We pour out our soul to Him when overwhelmed with sorrow and grief — we tell Him

all about our troubles. When others are sorrow-stricken, we sympathize with them and tell it to the Father. When hard problems confront us, we take them to the Father. We praise and thank him for this goodness and mercy. We petition him to supply all our needs and the needs of others. This implies close relationship, sonship and brotherhood. There is no closer relationship than that which exists between parent and child. Jesus was so close to the Father that when His soul was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death, He would turn to his Father and pray, saying; "Oh, my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

In Mark he addresses him as "Abba, Father", expressing greater ardency of affection and filial confidence.

Before I was a child of God I experienced an aching void that none could fill — not even mother or father. "One thing thou lackest", the spirit of adoption — the assurance that God is my Father, the one to turn to, to divulge the secrets of the deepest recess of my heart. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba Father." (Gal. 4:6).

The spirit of sonship brings with it the spirit of prayer. In the anguish of soul, or in time of joy, we turn to the Father. It is that free intercourse between myself and the Father which gives supreme satisfaction.

But what relationship do the angels sustain to God's children? The angels have charge over His children. David says, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Again he says, "The angels of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Their guardian angels do always behold the face of their father which is in Heaven. (Matt. 18:10).

Even when Daniel (through the conspiracy of his enemies) was cast into the lions' den, God sent his angels to shut the lions' mouths to save his life. In the next place, angels are ministering spirits. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Heb. 1:14).

An angel ministered to Elijah in the wilderness, under the Juniper tree. They ministered to Jesus after the devil left him in the wilderness.

When Peter was cast into prison and the church was praying for his release, the angel delivered him. When Jesus was agonizing in the garden of Gethsemane, an angel appeared unto Him from Heaven, strengthening Him.

If we pray in agony, the angel will come to our relief. If we pray not, we will weaken and die. The angels are our invisible guests.

They are our companions. "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, and heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." (Heb. 12:22).

The angels are represented as the attendants upon God, when he gave the law on Mt. Sinai, as intimated by the psalmist, "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels; the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place." (Psalms 68:17).

When God will come to judge the world, he will be attended with hosts of heaven. Though the angels inhabit the new Jerusalem, yet they belong also to the church below — Christ in some sort incorporated them with His followers. They are hovering round and about the saints; that if God would open their eyes, like Elisha's servant, they would be greatly surprised.

But let us look at the heavenly significance of prayer, the ministering of the angels in heaven when saints are engaged in prayer. First notice the type under the ceremonial law, which was the burning of incense, which was an emblem of the prayers and praise of the people of God. It was burned twice each day — morning and evening. David was alluding to this when he said, "Lord, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice." (Psalms 141:1-2).

Zacharias' lot was to burn incense, and while he was engaged in performing his duty in the temple, "the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense," and while he was thus engaged, "... there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense." (Luke 1:10-11).

I am impressed with the activity of angels in Heaven when saints are engaged in prayer. "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censor; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." (Rev. 8:3-4).

Do our prayers cause such a stir among the angels in heaven? Do angels offer with our prayers incense in the golden censor on the golden altar which is before the throne?

"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having everyone of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of the saints. "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take

the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." (Rev. 5:8-9).

Shall our prayers (so imperfect) be carried in golden vials as a token of our sonship by the angels of Heaven? Oh, how this should encourage us; how it should increase our faith; confirm our hope and enlarge our love. "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels." (I Cor. 11:10). What is that sign of authority? Paul says it is a head covering for women when praying or prophesying, an order, not only to be observed in the Corinthian church, but "as I teach every where in every church." (I Cor. 4:17).

THE PARADOX OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

II Cor. 4:8-11, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

How strange is the course that A Christian must steer!
How perplexed is the path he must tread!
The hope of his happiness rises from fear,
And his life he receives from the dead.

His fairest pretensions must wholly be waived,
And his best resolutions be crossed;
Nor can he expect to be perfectly saved,
Till he finds himself utterly lost.

When all this is done, and his heart is assured
Of the total remission of sins,
When his pardon is signed and his peace is procured,
From that moment his conflict begins.

- Joseph Hart

How strange our life must appear to the world! (And especially to "Christians" who are worldly — they are caught in the middle, and not understood by anyone!) We live in the flesh, but yet our hearts are elsewhere. We long to be with our Lord, who saved us, but we have friends and loved ones we wish to see converted. We are not made happy by the materialism of this world. Our happiness is from above, not down here below.

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name."

We can't trust anyone or anything in this world. Man will disappoint you every time. Trust in Jesus. Noah looked above, though he was laughed at by the world. John the Baptist was a stranger in this world, yet he heralded the Messiah! He dressed and ate strangely, living differently than most, spending weeks in the desert. How strange these people lived! Today it seems brethren, instead of living the nonconformist life, straddle the fence all the time. The problems with straddling the fence is that if you lose your balance you can fall off either side. May God help us. Remember the little boy who fell out of bed. His trouble was he fell asleep too close to the edge. We must stay away from the edge. We must avoid all appearance of evil or worldliness. We cannot give anyone a reason to accuse us of anything but serving Jesus.

This is a call to Godliness. Everything we do and say must be a reflection on our Lord and Savior. There must be no doubt to those around you that you serve Jesus. Choose this day whom you will serve.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

NEWS ITEMS

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation invites you to their Harvest Meeting on September 15. Bro. Phil Gish of Englewood, Ohio will be the speaker.

The Lord willing, Bro. Michael Wray of Modesto, California will hold a one week Revival - October 13 through October 20. Love-feast will be on October 19 at 7 p.m. with Services at 2 p.m. in the afternoon.

Please come to these services if you can. We would appreciate your prayers, that much good might come from hearing the Word.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation is looking forward to a Revival Meeting, September 22 through 29. Bro. Gordon Jamison from Quinter, Kansas will be our evangelist. We welcome you to pray and to come and worship with us.

Sister Grace Reed, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation has planned their fall Communion services for September 28th, with services at 11:00, 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, September 29th, there is to be a Harvest service, with a carry-in dinner. The Harvest speaker is to be Bro. Philip Gish. Come and worship with us.

Sis. Eileen Broadwater, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I appreciated all the Get Well Cards and prayers while I was in the hospital, also flowers and food. May God bless each one richly. Many "thanks" to each one.

In Christian Love,
Sister Martha Shaffer

THANK YOU

I want to thank all the young folks of the Lititz Congregation for their kindness in coming to paint my house for me. It was deeply appreciated. May the Lord bless each one.

Sister Emma W. Stauffer

GOD HAS BEEN VERY GOOD TO ME

I accepted the Lord on September 13, 1913 at the Church of the Brethren, Cushing, Oklahoma. I came into the Dunkard Brethren Church in Waterford, California many years ago. I have tried all these years to be true to the Lord and win souls for Him. I love all His dear children and may God bless each one of them. They are so good to me!

Now I have reached ninety years. I pray the Lord to give me a few more years here so I still can work to help others to Him. On my ninetieth birthday and up to August 1, I received \$113.00 and 120 lovely cards and letters from members of the beloved church, friends and relatives. May God richly bless everyone who helped to make it a wonderful day!

With love to all,
Sister E. M. Alltus



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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A SWEETLY SOLEMN THOUGHT

A sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er,
Today I'm nearer to my home
Than e'er I've been before.
Nearer my Father's house,
Where many mansions be,
And nearer to the great white throne,
Nearer the crystal sea.
Nearer the bound of life,
Where falls my burden down;
Nearer to where I leave my cross,
And where I gain my crown.
Savior, confirm my trust.
Complete my faith in thee;
And let me feel as if I stood
Close on eternity;
Feel as if now my feet
Were slipping o'er the brink;
For I may now be nearer home,
Much nearer than I think.

- Phoebe Cary

THE DARK AGES

The approximately one thousand years between the establishment of the State Church and the Reformation is often called The Dark Ages. The darkness, especially in Western Europe, was a time of ignorance, superstition and serfdom. The greatest darkness was the low Spirituality that engulfed the whole area.

Although the Church existed in name and by civil authority, it lacked true Spirituality. There may have been scattered groups which tried to worship God according to Biblical mandates, but their members were few and often severely persecuted.

The common people were uneducated and illiterate. This made it easy for those who had such skills to mislead and take advantage of them. Since they could not read the Bible for themselves, they could be misled in the requirements for a Spiritual life. Often witchcraft, fable and superstition was substituted for Biblical teaching. There was a very low level of living according to Biblical standards. The leaders in the Church were often the Spiritual enemies of the people, leading them in ways that were in opposition to God's teachings. These leaders were living lives that were in open, flagrant violation of the Bible.

What is the lesson of the Dark Ages for us today? We know as we look about us that the moral fabric of our own country as well as the world at large is quickly coming unravelled. We know very well that very soon the Lord could return and call this age to an end. Certainly the Christian's hope is beyond this life and this world's social structure and lifestyle. If the end of this age is not at hand, then we could very well be headed for another era comparable to the Dark Ages.

THE BIBLE MONITOR
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The educational system of this world is in dishevel. Children are spending more hours at school but many are functionally illiterate. They are unable to use simple mathematics. They cannot read nor are they able to write coherent sentences to convey thoughts to others. They can not handle thoughts that require reasoning or logic. Without modern calculators they would be unable to make change or balance a checkbook. Their geographical skills are almost nonexistent.

Our political structure of this nation and most others is worm eaten and crumbling. Politicians spend their efforts in securing election and reelection. They usually lose touch with the citizens back home. There is much that is wasteful, decadent and indecent in the government. The money raised through taxation is wasted upon various schemes, studies and social programs. Deficit spending and an unwillingness to make the necessary hard choices have practically bankrupted not only our Federal government, but many State and local governments. As government and politics are carried out today lacking statesmanship and morality, there can be no question but that the Christian is going to avoid participation.

The today's social structure is tilted toward fun, fashion and fad. A good time is the most important thing. Doing what feels good or what is fun is the criteria in the choice of activities. Each does what pleases himself, without regard for the feelings or well-being of others. Society is near non-existent since everyone is seeking only his own desires.

The most disheartening and most revealing sign of our regression toward another Dark Ages is the Spiritual decline that is evident on every hand. Every Sunday gives evidence of the unchurched nature of the general population. There is very little reverence for the House of God. Not only is there a lack of attendance but often ridicule of those who do attend and many times vandalism of the building and grounds. Too often even those who do attend, do so out of a sense of duty rather than to worship God. Often those in attendance are very little better than those who are not for there is a lack of application of teaching to daily living. The influences of liberalism, modernism and materialism have shaped the message to be unlike the revealed message of the Word of God.

There may be influences in the world today that will finally prevent a slide into another Dark Ages, but the world lacks little of being ripe for the return of Jesus Christ. The salt seems to be getting weaker. The whole moral situation in the world seems to be getting further and further from God's standard. It could almost be a question as to whether faith, as God intends for it to exist, really is present in this world any more.

It is the Christian's preference that, rather than another Dark Ages should come upon this world, Jesus would return to claim His own.

1991 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from September 1, 1991 Issue

Monday Evening.

Elder Warren Smith opened. Revelation 22. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." In obedience to the Word we are promised life everlasting.

Elder Hayes Reed. Luke 22:39-46. Gethsemane, the Crossroad to Calvary. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled... I go to prepare a place for you..." John 14:1-4. A great miracle of Jesus was when He fed the five thousand through the help of God. Christ had many trials before He went to Gethsemane. The Scribes and Pharisees were very much against Christ. They wanted Him crucified. Christ wants us to be willing to help others. Before Jesus went to the cross He said, "Let this cup pass from me." Christ said to the Father in Heaven, "Not my will but thine." Jesus was only thirty-three years old when He went to the cross for you and me. When Hezekiah was about to die, he prayed to the Lord for a longer life, and his prayer was answered. He was given over ten years to live after his prayer. Jonah's prayer was answered in the body of the whale. Jonah later went to Ninevah and preached to the people and did the will of the Father in Heaven. Jesus hanged on that cross between two thieves when He was crucified. Christ's mother was standing at the foot of the cross. Thank God that Jesus went to the cross for you and me so we can gain salvation.

Elder Rudy Cover. Romans 8:35-39. Living for Jesus NOW! Does God really value us? He gave His only Son to help us gain salvation. We have freedom of religion. We have many modern inventions. We have forces against religion. Satan is very busy. We are gaining more knowledge in the world, but is it for our benefit in these last days? To live for Jesus it takes every day of our lives. We should have love for all. The Lord taught humility. We should keep ourselves humble. We live for Christ day by day being wholly dedicated to Him.

Elder Frank Shaffer closed.

Tuesday Morning Worship.

Elder William Carpenter. Nehemiah 8:1. As soon as one can understand, it is good to study and read the Bible. The people wept in the beginning when they heard the Word of God. Later they rejoiced in the book of the Law that comes from God. Jesus said,

"If you do not repent and be baptized your name will be taken out of the Lamb's Book of Life."

Tuesday A.M.

Bible Study - Adults - Being an Example of Godliness in These Evil Times. I Timothy 4:1-16.

Children - Paul and Silas in Prison. Acts 16:16-40.

Bro. Fred Johnson opened. Matthew 13:13. Jesus spoke in parables so the people He taught could understand Him more clearly.

Bro. Mark Cordrey. John 6:48-51. The I Am's of John. The I am's speak to the body and the soul. The I am's have truly something to say to us. The Bread of Life gives a good Spiritual teaching from Christ. What makes us feel secure in the Lord? God's Word is important to us. Good phrases this morning is my way in life or is it God's way in life for us. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He that has the light of the world should go and walk. We live in a world where men love darkness. We need that Light in our hearts so God can show us the right way to go. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the light." We can each choose my way. We need to see ourselves weak. Our powers are very limited. God has all power. The Word of God is pure and true. God has great strength. He has power over death. God wants us to have a solid and sincere mind for Him. Jesus said, "I am the door." Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." Jesus stands at the door and knocks. He continues to call so the unsaved can come to Him. It is through God's plan of salvation that we can be saved. What is the purpose of a door? It allows passage through. Jesus has the only way through that door. God's way is the best way. Jesus said, "I am the true vine, ye are the branches, without me you can do nothing." We need the true vine. We must have the good Spiritual food in us so we will live more faithful to the end. Jesus gave His life for us. Jesus is knocking and calling to our soul. Have you answered His call? Jesus said, "I am the resurrection." When we die we can live again.

Bro. James Meyers closed.

Tuesday P.M.

Bro. Jason Reed opened. Hebrews 6:1-3. We must stay with all the Doctrines of Christ and build a good foundation and go on to perfection. Christ is the foundation.

Bro. Rod Renicker. Matthew 28:20. We have been challenged while here at this Conference listening to the Holy Word proclaimed. What are you doing with your life of Eternal Value. It is a critical time. We must do things of Eternal Value. We need to have

a hatred against sin. One of the greatest sins is unbelief in Christ. There are those in Heaven who want every one saved. We should have a fear of God. Everything we do will be judged by God that we have done during our life. What are you doing with your life? Are you living for Him or are you living for Satan? Put your faith and trust in God. There is a point we need to be attentive and learn to understand the Holy Word. Many people in the world have hardness of heart and will not believe in the Lord Jesus.

Bro. Fred Johnson closed. What will you do for your soul? Live true and faithful to God.

Tuesday Evening.

Elder Robert Carpenter opened. Jonah 3. Every one has a mission wherever they go. Let's not grieve the Lord if we are called for a mission. Let's do our part and go if we are called.

Elder Edward Johnson. II Chronicles 7:14. If My People. Adam and Eve were the first in the world to have children of their own. Their first two boys were Cain and Abel. The first murder came in the first family. Cain slew Abel. God was grieved with the world and destroyed the world with water. Noah was a man of God. He made the ark. No one was saved but Noah and his family. Moses was called to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt to the promised land. Today we have a church. We do every thing we can to keep it pure. We are to be missionaries. We must keep ourselves pure. God's Son was born in this world. Christ became a great teacher. He went to the cross and died for our sins. Jesus rose from the tomb. Jesus said, "If I go away I will come again." Jesus is at the right hand of God. He sent the Holy Spirit to lead us in this world.

Elder Frank Shaffer closed. Take ye the Holy Word to all Nations.

Wednesday Morning Worship.

Elder William Heisey. John 9:1-12. While Jesus was passing by he saw the blind man. He took advantage to heal the blind man. The blind man wished to have his sight restored. He was very thankful Christ restored his sight. God sent Jesus to heal the sick and the blind and also the sinsick. After the blind man's sight was restored he obeyed Jesus and washed his eyes in the pool of Saloam to restore his sight. Christ is willing to help us when we are in need.

Sister Alice Heisey

STARVING THE FLESH

We read in Romans 7:21, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." That law has never been repealed.

The Apostle Paul had to contend with it and so does every professed Christian.

For this article I choose for my text Romans 13:14, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

If one really wants something to die, STARVE IT TO DEATH. If you want something to live, FEED IT GOOD and it will thrive. That applies to the animals, vegetation, humans and definitely the soul.

Man is a two-fold being. He is a natural being and he is a spiritual being. Paul states there is a natural body and there is a spiritual body. They both must be fed to grow, otherwise they will die.

The purpose of leaving the world and coming into the church is to change feed-lots and menus. Our desires are to starve the flesh and richly feed the spiritual man. There is a constant warfare between the flesh and the spirit. Paul states in Romans 7:18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good things:..."

There is a continuing conflict between our two natures. Friendship with the world is enmity with God. Once we have given our heart to the Lord, our citizenship is in Heaven. We discontinue friendship with the world and have a new friendship with God, with Christ and with God's people.

The friends of the world will see a change in us. They will see that we are feeding on the good things. THEY WILL THINK IT STRANGE THAT WE DO NOT RUN TO THE SAME EXCESS OF RIOT AS THEY DO.

When we starve the flesh we have a total change in our life. We have a change in conduct, conversation, companions, thoughts, and interests. Our problems change from the cares and troubles of the world to the love, support and obedience of God's Word.

The richer we feed on God's Word, the more we starve the flesh. Forbidding ourselves to frequent worldly places of amusement, to engage in ungodly activities and all other of the Devil's temptations will help much, to keep us on the narrow way that leadeth to Everlasting life.

The Apostle Paul, in I Cor. 15:31 states, "I DIE DAILY." He did not mean the death of his natural body. He meant that he was dead unto Satan and alive unto God. Gal. 5:16, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." When we do not fulfil the lust of the flesh we will STARVE it.

II Cor. 7:1, "... let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh..." The filthiness of the flesh includes ADULTERY, FORNICATION, UNCLEANNES, LASCIVIOUSNESS, IDOLTRY, WITCHCRAFT, HATRED, VARIANCE, EMULATIONS, WRATH, STRIFE, SEDUCTIONS, HERESIES, ENVYINGS, MURDERS, DRUNKENNESS, REVELLINGS and such like — are some of the

works of the flesh, if put away from us will help starve the flesh. Gal. 5:17, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:..." ONE OF THE TWO IS GOING TO BE THE VICTOR!

I John 2:16 sums up the thought nicely. "... the LUST OF THE FLESH ... IS NOT OF THE FATHER, BUT IS OF THE WORLD." Romans 7:25. When we serve the flesh, we serve the law of sin, and the penalty of sin is death. It is far better to starve the flesh and live, then to satisfy the flesh and die, spiritually. Galatians 6:8, "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;..." WE REAP WHAT WE SOW. There are countless scriptures comparing Spirit and the flesh. Romans 8:13, "For if ye live after the flesh, YE SHALL DIE: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, YE SHALL LIVE."

FEED THE SOUL, STARVE THE FLESH.

With all the churches in America, they are not making a dent in starving the flesh. With many worldly activities on the Lord's day such as baseball and football games, air-shows, and so forth, they draw a bigger attendance and enthusiasm than any Church activities can draw.

Young America is deep in sin, banqueting on the things of the flesh. I make a special appeal to the young people not to taste of the things of the flesh, then you will not create an appetite for them.

The Apostle Paul was a strong power for the Lord. He wrote in Romans 7:21, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." We can all truthfully say the same thing.

The devil is hungry, going about seeking whom he may devour. James 4:7 gives good advice, "SUBMIT yourselves therefore to God. RESIST the DEVIL, (Starve him out) and he will flee from you."

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

THE STILL SMALL VOICE

I Kings 19:11-12, "And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."

John 10:4, "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

John 5:28-29, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Elijah was not only a man who believed in miracles but he also was an instrument of God used to perform them. He had perhaps witnessed the ultimate power of God and miracles in his recent encounter with the prophets of Baal on mount Carmel. Therefore when the angel of the LORD instructed him to "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD" he probably expected the LORD to manifest himself in some powerful way. It is doubtful that he expected Him to reveal Himself through a still small voice.

We believe the same is true of many Christians today. They look for God in the wind. Not that God cannot appear in this fashion. For we read in the Acts 2:2, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting." But we are also warned in Ephesians 4:14, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

Christians also look for God in an earthquake. Once again, God can manifest Himself in this way also. For we read in Matthew 27:51 concerning the crucifixion of Christ, "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent." But the Apostle Paul also warns us in II Thessalonians 2:2-3, "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."

There are many who are looking for God in the fire. As with the wind and the earthquake, Scripture reveals that God can reveal Himself by fire. The Acts 2:3, "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." But James also warns us in James 3:5-6, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things, Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity:..."

The wind, the earthquake and the fire are all symbolic of sensational acts. While we dare not limit the power of God today, we must recognize also that there is a counterfeit power in the world today. This power will cause many to be carried away by the wind of false doctrine, to be a part of the falling away, and to fall victim to the tongue which is a world of iniquity. The only sure leading is the sound of the still small voice of God. Jesus says that

we are His sheep, that He goes before us, and that we can know His voice. This still small voice is always consistent with the Holy Scriptures. Today this still small voice is personified in the person of the Holy Spirit. The voice of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are one and the same within the reality of the Holy Trinity.

Many today are so busy listening to the blaring of the radio preacher that they have no time to listen to the still small voice of God! In some church services the only quiet time is when the preacher is preaching and even that is expected to always be with much emotionalism. There is no time or place to listen to the still small voice of God in such services.

The still small voice of God will lead us into all truth. "Letting your conscience be your guide" can sometimes be dangerous. We can sear our conscience. But the still small voice of God is always safe to follow. There are many who have listened to the still small voice of God and His call to the plain way of life who have laid it aside for the raging voices of modern christendom.

If we do not hear and respond to the still small voice we will be a part of the resurrection of damnation when all shall hear the voice of authority according to John 5:28-29. The still small voice is calling sinners to repentance through the shed blood of Jesus Christ as symbolized by trine immersion baptism. He is calling Christians to a life of holiness and purity. How will we respond?

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

NIGHT AND DAY PRAYING

I Thessalonians 3:10, "Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?"

While spending time in studying our Bible Study lessons, I was struck by the verse above, and was challenged tremendously by it. The blessed old hymn says, "Sweet hour of prayer", and the average Christian has never spent an hour in prayer, let alone days and nights. When we see the lateness of the hour, the seriousness of the situation, and the sinfulness of this old world, we cannot help but pray. Our unsaved loved ones, the morality of the world crumbling, and the persecution of all things Christian should just be a few things to drive us to our knees. Paul prayed night and day for the welfare of his brethren. He lived in a time when people were persecuted for owning the name of Christ. Christians endured all kinds of torture and death in that day, but He was truly worth dying for. Today our faith is tested very little. Maybe this is the reason

why no one prays day and night. If we would only be willing to, as Jesus told the disciples, launch out into the deep, instead of being content to lounge around on the shoreline, then maybe others would learn about Jesus through us. Maybe we would receive some persecution also, which scripture and experience have proven to be good for our faith.

Many cannot relate to or understand spending days and nights in prayer. That is because they have no contact at all with God. The few genuine conversations we have seen are bathed in prayer, before, during, and after. Most Christians seem to slack off after conversation to the point where most prayers, at meals and at night, become very nominal. Many young folks "join church" but are never truly converted. They have no prayer life and are so blatant about it that they even talk out loud during prayer in church.

To spend much time in prayer is to know that our Lord hears and answers our prayers. If we are persistent in prayer, He will know that we mean business and will act on our requests more readily than if we just ask and run. We should not neglect our prayer life, especially our private, "alone with God" times. We **MUST** spend much time in prayer. We will never be able to get things done for God unless He is made privy to our every need and desire.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 15, 1931

WHICH OF THE TWO?

J. F. Britton

"But the governor answered and said unto them, which of the two will ye that I release unto you? And they said, Barabbas." (Matt. 27:21, A.B.V.) "And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him but the Jews cried out, saying, if thou let this man go thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour; and he saith unto the Jews, 'Behold your King!' But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate said unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar."

The scriptures verify the fact that Pilate felt in his heart, and was convinced in his mind, that it was "For envy they had delivered him", and were clamourously bawling against Jesus. And in Pilate's expostulations with those bigoted, unbelieving Jews, he pleads for Jesus, and in pleading for Jesus, he pleads for Right and Righteousness. But those vociferous and infuriated demands that Pilate should release unto them Barabbas prevailed. So Pilate delivered Jesus to them to be crucified, and released to them the man of their choice.

Now that man, Barabbas, according to the Scriptures was an instigator of a sedition, also of murder and of theft. A proper representative of the prince and power of this world, with all his heinous crimes, vices and iniquities. It occurs to the writer that it is incredible and illogical to think that people would prefer the worst character in all the country to the best man the world ever knew. But it is sad and heart-rending to think as it was then, so it is today. With all of our boasted religious education advancement in knowledge, and our many churches and colleges, the general trend seems to be against the eternal truths that Jesus taught. And as those benighted Jews cried out against Jesus, saying, "Away, away, with him, crucify him", so it is today.

In our Congress halls, many congressmen and public speakers, men in public places, on the street corners and everywhere, are crying out, away, away, with Prohibition, give us beer and light wines, which is only opening the way for the strongest grades of liquors. And the very elements about us are echoing and vibrating with vehement yells against all law, on the Tobacco evil, and the blighting divorce evil, which is destroying the purity and sacredness of many homes. People are crying out, for the right to their opinions, and they are claiming the liberty to do as they please, which virtually means, fornication, immorality and dishonesty. The writer is wondering if this country is going into the dread realms of anarchy?

Last, but not least, the churches are crying aloud, Away, away, with discipline, modesty, chastity and virtue, but give us the abominable fashions right from Paris, bobbed hair, bobbed dresses with no sleeves in them, paint, powder and lots of pleasures, so we can have a good time, even if it is at the expense and sacrifice of their eternal birth rights. But listen! There are other voices in the churches in very persistent terms saying, Away, away, with baptism, feet washing, the Lord's Supper, salutation of the Holy Kiss, and the non-conformity principles, but give us social parties, pageants, bowling alleys and movies, so we can have lots of fun.

Now dear reader, which of these two will you choose? Jesus, and his Righteousness, which means eternal life, or Barabbas,

which denotes a life of sin, and a Christless eternity. If you have not already decided this all important question, the writer appeals to you in the name of all reason, while it is still day, to choose Jesus and his righteousness, that you may have life, and that you may have it abundantly, Your future destination will be determined by your choosing, "Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Amen.

NO MAN CARED FOR MY SOUL

Psalms 142:4

W. C. Gaberson

"No man cared for my soul"

They ask about my goods and wealth;
They ask about my strength and health
But none cared for my soul.

"No man cared for my soul"

They hoped my crops were doing well;
And for a nice high price would sell,
But none cared for my soul.

"No man cared for my soul"

They ask about my sheep and hogs;
They ask about my cats and dogs;
But none cared for my soul.

"No man cared for my soul"

They talked of weather bad and fair;
They talked of water, earth and air;
But none cared for my soul.

"No man cared for my soul"

How hungry often my soul has been;
To know the Savior of sinful men;
But none cared for my soul.

"No man cared for my soul"

Now if in the judgment I am lost;
Must they who cared not pay half the cost?
For none cared for my soul.

"No man cared for my soul"

With God's great commission ringing clear;
With time so short and death so near —
Will none care for my soul?

"No man cared for my soul"

Christian if you the great prize would win;
And help others be saved from sin,
"You must care for my soul."

Selected by Sister Mamie Hott

OBITUARIES

BERTHA SAYLOR

Sister Bertha R. Saylor was born at Bond, Maryland October 27, 1912, the daughter of Floyd and Sarah Jane (Broadwater) Rounds. She died March 28, 1991 at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

She was married first to George Dorsey, who died in 1965. She later married Rufus Saylor, who survives. She was a member of the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church.

Besides her husband and father, she is survived by a son, Carl Dorsey of Allentown, Pennsylvania and three step-sons, Richard, Robert and Eugene Saylor, all of Manheim, Pennsylvania and a step-daughter, Dorcas Miller of Manheim, Pennsylvania; also two grandchildren, nine step-grandchildren and five step-great-grandchildren. Also surviving are five brothers, Ervin Rounds of Alexandria, Virginia, Arthur and Carl Rounds of Grantsville, Maryland, Minor Rounds of Swanton, Maryland, Arlie Rounds of Accident, Maryland; four sisters, Virgie McMillan of Orion, Michigan, Violet Rounds of Hagerstown, Maryland, and Leona Broadwater and Thelma Broadwater of Grantsville, Maryland.

Funeral services were held at Newman Funeral Home, Grantsville, Maryland by Elders James Kegerreis and Rudy Shaffer, with Elder Virgil Leatherman conducting the committal service on April 1, 1991.

A memorial service was held on April 7, 1991 at the Lititz Congregation conducted by Elders Allen Eberly and Rudy Shaffer.

Thank You

I wish to thank all the Brethren and Sisters who remembered me with cards, gifts and prayers. I still covet your prayers. Times are long and lonesome.

Bro. Rufus Saylor

DAVID BUSSEAR

Bro. David Edson Bussear was born in Freesoil, Michigan on December 16, 1911, the son of Zachary and Elizabeth (Studebaker) Bussear. He died at Gratiot Community Hospital, Alma, Michigan on April 22, 1991.

He had been a carpenter and a farmer.

He married Bertha Tunwell on June 26, 1936. Also in 1936 he was converted and joined the Dunkard Brethren Church. At the time of death he was a member of the West Fulton Congregation.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, William of Riverside, California and David of Merrill, Michigan; three daughters, Mrs.

Mary Rocheleau of Ithaca, Michigan, Mrs. Nancy Gulick of Merrill, Michigan and Mrs. Ellen Baker of Chicago, Illinois; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Bessie Neimatalo, Ann Arbor, Michigan and Mrs. Florence Dinger, Frankfort, Michigan.

Funeral Services were conducted by Elder H. Edward Johnson at the Whiting Funeral Chapel, Breckenridge, Michigan on April 25, 1991. Burial was in Long Lake Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Lord willing, Bro. Harley Flory of Defiance, Ohio, will be with the Dayton Congregation from October 16 through October 20 for revival. Lovefeast will be on Saturday evening, October 19.

We are few in number and welcome your presence and your prayers.

Fellowship dinner will be at noon on Sunday, October 20.

Sister Mary Rounds, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

We praise the Lord that there are still some who are answering the call of the Master. Amy Sensenig, daughter of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sue Sensenig, received Christ into her heart the last evening of Shrewsbury revivals.

A special invitation is given to come to our revivals, October 13 through 20. We are looking forward to having Bro. Edward Johnson from Wauseon, Ohio to bring God's Word. Come and pray for lost souls and the strengthening of the church.

Remember our Lovefeast has been changed from the third Sunday in October to the second Sunday in November!

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Lord willing, Bro. Jan Heisey will be at Quinter for revival meetings, October 20 through 27. Lovefeast will be Saturday evening, October 26.

All who can, please come worship with us.

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 19

For the faith once delivered unto the saints

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE MARTYRS

Flung to the heedless winds,
Or on the waters cast,
The martyrs' ashes, watched,
Shall gathered be at last;
And from that scattered dust,
Around us and abroad,
Shall spring a plenteous seed
Of witnesses for God.

The Father hath received
Their latest living breath;
And vain is Satan's boast
Of victory in their death;
Still, still, though dead, they speak,
And, trumpet-tongued, proclaim
To many a weakening land,
The one availing name.

- Martin Luther

JESUS' PARABLES

Jesus often spoke to the crowds who followed Him by using parables. Parables were a good teaching device because Jesus could make even the uneducated understand the lessons He was trying to convey. The parables concerned everyday events that they were acquainted with. They could follow His reasoning from the day-to-day events He spoke of to the Spiritual truth He was trying to get them to understand.

In using these parables, Jesus spoke of their occupations and the events, both good and bad, that were connected with these occupations. By speaking of these occupations, Jesus commended the work that people did. He did not consider any of these tasks as being too low for His consideration. He put His seal of approval upon any work that was honest and helpful.

Jesus did not look down His nose at these common people like many of the Spiritual leaders of Israel did. He saw the value in each one and in what they did. He had no problem with status as the Pharisees did, so the common people, who were the most numerous, were more likely to listen to Him than were the leaders. He came meekly and lowly and the lowly were willing to identify with Him.

How could He better identify with them, than by talking about what they did. A person is identified with his work. A person will often spend his entire working lifetime doing one particular type of work. Few stray far from what they originally choose as an occupation or profession.

The occupations He most referred to were fishing, farming and sheep herding. He found many useful illustrations in these lines of work so He could convey many Spiritual lessons. These were all details that they could identify with and get the point that He was trying to make.

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Farming, including the work of the orchardist and the vintner, gave many illustrations touching upon the sowing, growing, cultivating and harvesting crops. He could speak of the Sower spreading his seed on the various grades of ground and the resultant harvest. He could speak of trees that needed special care if it were to produce, rather than be chopped down. He could speak of the short lifespan of the grass and the flowers. He often spoke of the necessity of being fruitful, which was the farmer's great concern. The farmers, the vintners, and the orchardists could very well comprehend the lessons having to do with the planting, growing and production of plenteous Spiritual harvests within their ordinary lives.

He was many times involved with the fishermen. He was often on or near the Sea of Galilee. He could speak of and calm the storms that roared so violently over that sea. He could speak of those following Him becoming fishers of men as they had fished for gain before. He could speak of throwing out an all-inclusive net. He could speak of mending nets so they would be fit to bring in the harvest of fish. The fishermen could easily identify with the illustrations and events that were a part of the fisherman's daily life. They could understand what He wished for them to do to become the kind of fishermen that He desired.

He not only spoke of the shepherd's work, but even identified Himself as the Good Shepherd. He had much to say about the shepherd's care of the sheep. He not only lavished care upon the mature and productive animals but also on the young, tender and roving ones. He often put himself in danger caring for his sheep's wellbeing. He could speak of the safety of the sheepfold. He could speak of the sheep being willing to follow the shepherd beside the still waters, in the paths of righteousness, and through the valley of the shadow of death. They were willing to follow him because they knew he cared for them and would protect and provide for them. Jesus could convey to them His love, concern and compassion when He compared Himself to the shepherd.

Although today we may not be as closely attached to the land or to work as simple and basic as theirs, we still can profit from the parables that Jesus used to teach them. Jesus spoke of other occupations, teachers, merchants, housewives and others, as He commended all honest and productive work. He appreciated what people were doing, not only in making a living for themselves and their families, but also in helping others and supplying some of their needs.

Jesus, through these simple illustrations, conveyed Spiritual truths that they might not otherwise ever be able to understand. You and I can profit from these simple lessons just like they did. Study His parables and learn many Spiritual lessons.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Why read God's Word?

The Christian life is a life of growing. If it becomes stagnant it will have no effectiveness. If you become any less than a whole person in Jesus Christ, you will not have joy in your daily living. You need to apply Bible truth and Christian experience to your problems and a new light will shine as the Spirit of Christ increases your faith and gives you radiance.

Many people ask what the Bible can really do for them. Well, I answer them... nothing... or everything! Both answers are true, depending on what they allow the Word to do for them.

Remember, the Bible is GOD'S PERSONAL WORD. It is not the words of a man. This book is the most awesome gift ever delivered to mankind. It is the all time best seller on the market. It has been translated into around sixteen hundred languages and dialects. But the greatness of the Book is not measured in these ways. Its value is revealed in its content.

The Bible contains sixty-six individual books which were written over a period of 2,000 years by around forty different writers. Yet it is unified and proclaims one great story... the story of redemption through Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. The book is continually attacked... especially by the academic community. They attempt to refute it and even destroy it... yet it stands immortal.

The Bible is indispensable. It holds up the pattern of Christ whom we receive and like whom we can become. Reading the Bible makes us aware of our personal responsibility to God. We understand our accountability before Him. "For in Him we live and move and have our being."

And, all of this is within our reach. As we acknowledge our need, God will supply it. As we follow Him daily in life, He will strengthen our hearts. He does this through the POWER OF THE WORD. It is our source of inspiration and blessing. It is survival.

The three oppressions of life... sin, suffering and death are all shown to be overcome in this great Book. It teaches us how to live ABUNDANTLY. It ascends to the highest glory and descends to our lowest need. It never disappoints and it fulfills our expectations as well as God's.

The Bible will help you to understand yourself. This is important in our day of confusion over self identity.

It will reveal our true need and will show us how God can meet this need in our individual lives.

The Bible will help us experience a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and it will fill our lives with power... in the Holy

Spirit. It will bring deep peace, abiding joy and will provide divine strength for daily activity and living. It will help us to meet all of our temptations and will bring us into the company of all of the great men and women of God of all time. The Bible gives us the promise of an abundant life here and an eternal life in the hereafter.

Are you bored and tired of all of the reading materials on the market today? Are you looking for real excitement, true stories, dramatic word pictures, living illustrations? Look no further. Read God's Word and have it all. Read... and be wise, believe it, practice it... and be holy.

Brother Len Wertz

WHEN WE PRAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord. It seems that we are rapidly moving into a new age. These new times bring many new concerns and experiences into christianity. Down through the ages Christians have been becoming closer to the world and its ways. Many conservative groups have slipped into liberalism. Will WE be an exception?

This slipping away is of no wonder for what used to be sin just is not sin anymore. We keep accepting yesteryear's modern ways for the ways of today. Yes, unfortunately each generation goes just a little further towards the world's pleasures and evils than the previous generation. Can we as a church continue in this direction without becoming indifferent to sin? Romans 6:1-2.

One of the concerns that I have for our age is that of the "Modern Christian's Prayer." It is praying just as if you are talking to a friend, but, Friends, should we treat JESUS CHRIST merely as a friend? A friend He is indeed, but to me (and I hope to each of you as well) He is so much more! He is the one who deserves reverence as well as respect for being All powerful, All Mighty, All knowing, and All Ruling. Matthew 19:26, Ephesians 1:20-23, Revelation 19:6. The example that CHRIST set for US in prayer teaches us to "HALLOW" His name, which means to keep it "Holy and Sacred." Would it be fair to CHRIST if we were to merely treat Him as a friend? Before answering in your mind, Remember, it was He who took upon Himself each sin of each one of us. He did this out of love and not because of some pitiful compassion. Do we love him as we should? John 15:13. If so, let us not degrade Him or lift ourselves up to His level by thinking of Him as a mere friend, but rather let us Honor, Glorify, Reverence, and Respect Him for who He is!

As an example and as a warning about where this type of attitude towards CHRIST and prayer can lead us, I have written a prayer

which a "Modern Christian" prayed to God. I'm going to relate this to you as he has told it to me. His prayer went as follows:...

"You know, God, I just don't understand why you have not granted my previous request. I have done everything according to Your Word and yet You choose not to solve my problem. Why not? You said in the Bible that YOU hate sin and that if we ask anything in Your name it WILL be given to us. Now You know that I have done my part as much as is possible but Yet YOU keep a deaf ear to me. WHY? Why don't YOU keep YOUR promises and grant my request? Yes, I know that will be in YOUR time and not ours, but You also said that You will not give us any more than that which we are able to bear. You know here again I have been let down because I just cannot bear it anymore and You refuse to help me. Please help me understand why You have not helped me. Why? Why have You not answered me? Amen."

This person also proceeded to tell me that someday "I will see God face to face and when I do I'm going to look Him in the eye and ask Him why He never solved my problem!" He also said, "God has me ticked off, but I have the right to know so I'm going to ask Him when I see Him."

This man who still professes christianity is living a sinful life in many ways. The sad part is that he is doing it knowingly! Stop and consider for a minute "Brother or Sister Modern Christian" is it your desire to be in such a condition on the Judgement Day?

Dear friends, if you are travelling this road, STOP! Check your map again lest you enter eternity and find out too late that sin has taken you further than you wanted to go and that sin has just cost you more than you ever wanted to pay. Remember Heaven is cheap at ANY COST, so if we follow CHRIST'S example we cannot go wrong!

Brother Harold B. Zimmerman
150 Endsloew Road
Marietta, PA 17547

ACCREDITED SALVATION

The urge to worship or show reverence to some deity is in-born within the human breast. Individuals are prone to worship something.

There is a great diversity among humans as to what they worship: men, idols, the sun, the moon, graven images, animals, Buddha and Mohammed among others. All of the above were created by God and by Christ, who was with Him in the creation. God's Word teaches that we are to worship the Creator and not His creation. His rule eliminated all other objects of worship.

We are to worship God and Christ, only. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3. "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me:..." Isaiah 45:5. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is the water under the earth." Exodus 20:4. There are other scriptures as emphatic as the above against worshipping other than the true God and His Son.

If we truly are seeking salvation, we have a scripture that points the way. Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." That reward is our salvation.

When God chose His only Son to bring the plan of salvation from Heaven, to the lost, He sent Him with full authority and with proper credentials and accreditation. God repeatedly put His stamp of approval on Christ, as the Son of God, as the One duly authorized and accredited by God. Accredited means: Approval of, to give official authorization to,

We have many scriptures to substantiate our subject. At Christ's crucifixion, God accredited His death by causing darkness over all the land, by rending of the veil in the temple in twain, by an earthquake, by the rending of the rocks, by the graves opening and by the resurrection of the saints.

TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD!

In the angel's announcement to Mary regarding the coming birth of Christ we read in Luke 1:31-33, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: AND HE SHALL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOR EVER; AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE SHALL BE NO END." Jesus was born to be the Savior of mankind. He was accredited by God and authorized by God to bring the one and only plan of salvation to dying humanity.

At Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan, God affirmed, through His voice from Heaven, that Jesus was "HIS BELOVED SON." Another accredited and confirmed endorsement that Jesus was truly God's Son and a part of the Trinity.

At the transfiguration as recorded in Matthew 17:5, "While he (Peter) yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED; HEAR YE HIM." God again

Angels attested at Christ's Resurrection that "He is not here, He is risen." That cannot be said of Mohammed or Buddha. They remain where they were entombed. They cannot provide salvation.

Neither can worshipping idols and graven images provide salvation. Only our loving Lord and Saviour has the keys to the Kingdom. Therefore good judgment dictates that if we truly want to be saved from the penalty of sin, we must enter into the covenant relationship with Christ, and remain faithful until death.

His mission in coming to earth was "To seek and save (bring salvation) to the lost. Do we need more proof than that given of God that there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved?

JESUS WE MUST WORSHIP AND SERVE AND NONE OTHER.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

REPENT OR PERISH

Luke 13:3, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name (authority) of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 2:3-4, "And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and dost the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."

There are those who teach that repentance has nothing to do with our salvation. In fact, to hear them explain salvation you would come to the conclusion that NOTHING is involved in salvation except a one time acceptance of the truth of Scripture that Jesus Christ shed His blood for our sins. Yet James 2:19-20 instructs us, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" If we rightly divide the word of Truth we will find that Holy Scripture speaks of two different types of "works." One of these is human works, which has nothing to do with our salvation. The other is the Holy Spirit working through us, which has everything to do with our salvation.

First of all there is a need to repent of the Adamic nature that we all possess. True repentance is a sorrow for our sin against God and a desire to change. Romans 3:23 tells us, "For all have sinned, and

come short of the glory of God." Living a good moral life is not enough to gain us a home in Heaven.

There is much discussion and argument within the earthly church about how baptism fits into the salvation plan. There are those who argue that Acts 2:38 was only for Jewish believers. There are others who argue that it was only for the transition period recorded in the Book of Acts. The majority today consider baptism for the remission of sins to be false teaching. We will stand firm on Holy Scripture. The next verse reads, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." If God has called you, this includes you! The next issue that naturally enters the scene is the method of baptism. We are persuaded that Holy Scripture teaches trine immersion baptism. However, we leave the final judgement of individuals in the hands of a Holy and righteous God. We are also fully persuaded that an individual can be sprinkled, poured and immersed one time backwards and three times forward and yet not be saved if they have not truly repented. While we stand firm on our Brethren teaching that baptism is the final act of our salvation experience, we have higher hopes for those who have been baptized by the wrong mode and truly repented than for those who have been baptized the right way and never truly repented.

But repentance does not end with our initial salvation experience. It must be a daily part of our life. I John 1:8 informs us, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." This was written of those who "walk in the light, as he is in the light." We must repent of our over-judgmental attitudes. It is much easier to be condemning than to be loving and caring. The first chapter of Romans lists some terrible sins. These are what Paul is referring to in Romans 2:3. If we only pick out those that refer to others we are in deep trouble. We have to acknowledge the fact that some of these, sometime in our life, may become a problem for us. If we refuse to recognize this and fail to repent we will receive the same judgement as those who have never experienced the forgiveness of sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Very few of us have ever been guilty of such sins as homosexuality, murder or being haters of God. Perhaps a larger percentage of us have been guilty of fornication and other "natural" sexual sins. "Having eyes full of adultery" as found in II Peter 2:14 is a sin we can avoid by not having a television set in our homes to some extent. Yet we wonder how many brethren truly have "sanctified eyes" that many claim to possess. We often overlook the sins of covetousness, maliciousness, malignity, whispers, backbiting and being unmerciful. Do we really take to heart the warning in I John

3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." If we have something between ourselves and a brother or sister we had better repent and ask forgiveness from God and from them!

The earthly church needs repentance. It has followed the thinking, ideals and teachings of the world and rejected the pure Word of God, as a whole. But remember the church is made up of individual members. If we have leadership that no longer believes and teaches the Word of God we must pray for them and stand firm. If your church organization is apostate we believe God would have you get out.

We praise God that the goodness of God led us one day to repentance for willfully leaving His arms of love and grace. It is our desire to live a life that is pleasing to Him. Yet we realize that we often fail. For this reason we repent and ask His forgiveness on a daily basis. It is only by the grace of God that we will make Heaven. But we must repent and continue in the faith.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1931

THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD

Ord L. Strayer

Few men can claim faultless lives. Master, servant, governor, citizen, preacher, layman, rich man, poor man, all, all have come short of the glory of God. None is perfect nor ever have been except Jesus Christ the righteous. It is therefore meet for us to understand our relationship with Christ in order for us to understand the working of his will upon us.

Many times the people of earth who love God are called "the children of God." Paul says, "Then are we sons of God. And if sons, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ if so be that we suffer with him." So then the Lord exercises as close a watch over the actions of his followers here on earth as an earthly father over his earthly son. Are we not sons of God?

But it so happens that sons of earthly fathers need correction from time to time. One of the functions of parenthood is to lead and to guide the feet of the neophyte over the path which the parent has already trod. The parent who is interested in the welfare of his child spends much of his time teaching, admonishing, leading and studying that child. We are not prepared here to answer the charge that

parents are gradually drifting away from their parental duties, nor does that charge detract in any way from our illustration. We are dealing with conditions in the Christian home and Christian parents do not neglect their God given obligations. The Christian parent, therefore, in this connection, is an image, however imperfect, of Christ. The way is laid down for all of us; for the child by the father who is influenced by God's laws which have been prepared for his guidance in turn. When the child transgresses, punishment ensues. When the adult makes a false step he is "chastened of the Lord."

Punishment of a child is easily recognizable by that child as it usually causes physical discomfort. For the case of the headstrong and self-willed and unruly, probably no course is as effective as the "laying on of hands." But in the case of the adult who has transgressed, his punishment is none the less real but is somewhat less easily recognized. It may come in many different ways. It may come in the form of sickness, or loss of wealth. It may take the form of loss of position or of power, or the church is solemn council convened may see fit to punish him who has transgressed. The preachers of the church may find it necessary to exhort, admonish or sternly rebuke. Is not the church the agent of Christ? Did he not say, "Whosoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven."? Are not the Elders of the church the overseers of the flock of God and is not theirs the responsibility of keeping the flock inviolate and the church clean? Then is not the disciplinary action taken by the church or the Elders after prayerful consideration by spirit-filled men of God, sanctioned by God? Is it likely that God would permit an inequitable decision to be permanently established by his church?

"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord nor faint when thou art rebuked by him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening God dealeth with you as with sons for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection (give reverence) unto the Father of Spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure but he for our profit that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down and the feeble knees. And make straight paths for your feet lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord," (Hebrews 12:5-14)

What can we add to such overwhelming evidence? What more can we say or put forth to make us appreciate the fact that unless God takes enough notice of us to scourge us for our transgressions, we are none of his. Let us, therefore, be steadfast, unmoveable always abounding in the work of the Lord forasmuch as ye know, that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

DAYS AS A HANDBREADTH

Psalms 39:5 "Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah."

Just a few days ago, as I write this, my wife had to rush me to the hospital. I spent the entire afternoon in the Emergency Room as dozens of people scurried around to try to find out what caused my severe chest pain and shortness of breath. I have had asthma for years, but never had I such difficulty in drawing a breath. In effect I had all the symptoms of a heart attack. I was convinced I was passing over. Why do I mention this? Everyone has had their close calls and certainly you do not want to hear mine, so what is the point?

The oldest person I ever knew lived to be one hundred and seven years old. She had a clear mind almost until the end of her life and she once told me that it seems like only yesterday that she was a young girl. She possessed a terrific memory and was able to remember most of what happened in her life. She almost knew what you were thinking. Yet she has gone on to her reward and we cannot get her back. Her days, though long by our standards, were as a handbreadth.

When I was about twelve years old my cousin had a baby. He was a dear little boy and I really took to him. At a year and a half he died suddenly. He had not been sick more than a day or so. His parents were heartbroken and not long after moved many states away. I did not eat or sleep for quite a while. It was the first time in my life a close loved-one had passed on, and the first time I thought seriously about death. Twenty-six years later, lying in a hospital bed, these things came back to me: these memories flooded my soul. What is our life? It is only a puff of smoke that appears for a moment and is soon gone.

How much time do we spend in prolonging our life? Taking medicines, trying to eat right, exercising, getting check-ups and going through medical procedures: all these things are fine. But what is our

life compared to those like David Brainerd, who spent himself in prayer and work among the American Indians and died at age twenty-nine? Or John Hyde, known as "Praying Hyde", who prayed constantly for souls on foreign fields and also died young? Do we examine the lives of the early Apostles and those documented in the "Martyr's Mirror"? Do we read of their piety, their unselfishness, their longing for the souls of men? Their lack of fear when confronting the governments of the day: do these things impress us? Most of all, do our lives reflect theirs, or are we like the world: out to get all we can before the lights go out?

Believe me, ask anyone who has had a close call, as many of us have. We can surely stand before God in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. The Bible says two will be in a bed; one will be taken and the other left. We can be going down the highway. We can, as a dear brother recently, pass away quietly in the middle of a workday. We can also pass on in a great deal of pain and struggling for breath, as I almost did. Should the Lord tarry it will happen to all of us. Let us live for the Lord in such a way that life and death both will be sweet and a wonderful testimony to those around us.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

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Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE BLESSING OF PATIENCE

"... we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:3b-5.)

These characteristics of the spiritual man are based upon a genuine salvation experience in which we are justified by faith (Romans 5:1). The message is clear that true salvation brings the Holy Ghost into our lives and regenerates us, making us new creatures, whose transformed lives testify to the presence and blessing of God.

Patience produces "experience". The Greek word here denotes "proof" and the New International Version fittingly translates this as character which is molded by patient discipleship in Christ. Many of our problems in the Christian life will fade away if we exert the patience that God desires in each one of our hearts. This does not mean however, that we sit still while apostasy and false teaching are making inroads among the brotherhood. There is a time to stand for the truth and a time to endure slander and persecution. Sometimes, despite unfairness in a situation, it is best to bear it silently and make sure that we ourselves are free from ill feeling, particularly if it is we

who are being mistreated. It is far better to speak out, if someone else is being misused.

We think of Joseph, lying in prison, bearing the injustice of the lying accusations of Potiphar's wife. He did not become embittered against the Egyptians and was able to rise above false accusation to lead them through seven years of severe famine. We think of Jeremiah, enduring the darkness and dampness of a life-threatening stay in the dungeon. When he was taken out, he continued to declare the truth of the impending invasion and conquest by Nebuchadnezzar, unpopular though that position was. We see Paul beaten and imprisoned on several occasions never ceasing to give his testimony, with patience and love for his hearers, to the saving grace and resurrection of Christ.

Most of all our hearts are drawn to Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, my son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." (Hebrews 12:2-6.)

The blessedness of patience can bear us up in many situations. Do our children seem to be unresponsive to our careful nurture of them? Don't give up. Continue to pray for guidance and stay by what the Bible teaches, even if others criticize us for being overzealous and unrealistic.

If we are leaders, are some of the members demanding more liberties? Stay by the "rule book" that has proven to be effective in the body of Christ. If we let down, God will hold us responsible for not keeping watch on the walls of Zion and letting the enemy in like a flood.

If we have been oppressed by relatives, civil authorities, can we take it in good grace, "speaking the truth in love"?

At such times our testimony can shine at its brightest. This is manifesting the presence of Christ when it is needed the most, while others are letting the self-life dominate them. Let us remain faithful as we draw on the strength and rich resources that God through Christ, can give by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we can assuredly rest in God's divine promises.

NEWS ITEMS

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

In August we enjoyed another Revival Meeting with Bro. Jim Meyers as the Evangelist. He brought us inspiring messages. May God bless Bro. Meyers and his family as they serve the Lord. We rejoice for one teenager who accepted the Lord at the close of the meetings, also for another who accepted the Lord a few weeks later.

At our July council our congregation elected two ministers and two deacons. The ministers are Bro. Marlin Marks and Bro. Robert Lehigh, and the deacons are Bro. Dale Blocher and Bro. Kenton Miller. May we pray for these brethren and their wives and families as they undertake the new responsibilities, that they will be a blessing in our lives.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

THE DUNKARD BRETHREN IN MISSOURI

A graduate student at the University of Missouri-Columbia has published a Master's Degree thesis entitled "Geography, Humanism, and 'Plain People' in Missouri: The Case of the Dunkard Brethren". Copies of this thesis are available for the printing cost of \$10.00. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy please contact Bro. Mark Andrews, 5305 E. 140th St., Grandview, MO 64030. Telephone (816) 763-6263.



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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and all Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BE ALWAYS GIVING

The sun gives ever; so the earth--
What it can give so much 'tis worth;
The ocean gives in many ways--
Gives baths, gives fishes, rivers, bays;
So, too, the air, it gives us breath.
When it stops giving, comes in death.
Give, give, be always giving;
Who gives not is not living;
The more you give
The more you live.

God's love hath in us wealth unheaped
Only by giving it is reaped;
The body withers, and the mind
Is pent up by a selfish rind.
Giving strength, give thought, give deeds, give self,
Give love, give tears, and give thyself.
Give, give, be always giving,
Who gives not is not living;
The more we give
The more we live.

BALANCE

Few, if any of us, would try to walk a tightwire for fear we would lose our balance and fall. A few people have developed their sense of balance to the extent that they can walk upon a thin wire high above not only the ground but over places like Niagara Falls. We would consider it foolhardy and unnecessary chance taking to attempt such a feat. We would decide that discretion was the better part of valor.

Although we would not attempt such a daring act, we still have to maintain balance in all areas of our lives. We dare not allow one extreme or another to dominate our lives.

A skilled motorist cannot weave across all the lanes of traffic but must keep himself in his lane. The ditches are not for traveling, but are for other purposes. The person out of balance would be like a driver making his way first in one ditch and then the other and in all the lanes between. Driving in such a manner would not only be dangerous for the driver, but for all others on the highway at that time. Others might be forced into the ditch or even killed by the erratic driver.

In matters concerning health, people often get out of balance. People become interested in various health fads. There are diets which are so fantastic that it is unbelievable that anyone would consider trying them, yet many do. People emphasize various components of the human diet. Some will avoid various things, while others will be equally concerned about avoiding the very opposite things. There are theories concerning healthful living that range from one extreme to the other. It is difficult to maintain a balance between the various ideas advanced for good health.

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Just walking from place to place upon the level ground requires a fine sense of balance. If one has ever tried to walk while dizzy, he knows how important balance is. That balance is obtained through the design of the inner ear. An infection or injury to the ear can affect a person's balance. Other factors beside the ear's condition can affect a person's balance. The drunk cannot maintain his balance. He has lost control of himself, because of the mind and body altering chemicals he has ingested.

Just like the ear's part in maintaining a person's natural balance, so the balance needed in the Christian life is provided by the inner direction of the Holy Spirit. There is a need for balance in living as a Christian. A Christian can become unbalanced in his beliefs and practices.

It is easier to attract attention and notoriety by taking an extreme position or promoting some extreme idea. It is much more difficult to maintain a godly balance. To maintain the balance that God has established as His standard in the Bible requires inner direction and outer willingness.

Just as fads affect people's ideas concerning good health practices, so many Christians are affected by religious fads. It is evident by looking at "mainline Christianity" today that great changes have taken place over the years as first one fad and then another have predominated.

There have been times when doctrine has been emphasized more than the application of that doctrine to daily life. There have been times when the work of the Holy Spirit has been emphasized, bringing about an increased emotionalism. There have been times when Christianity has been very dry, dull and dead. There have been times when love has been emphasized to the extent that there has been little discipline. All of these various areas need to be balanced in the Christian's life. There needs to be serious Bible study. There needs to be dependence upon the Holy Spirit. There needs to be lots of love shared among the members. There needs to be discipline if Christians are to be His disciples. There needs to be teaching and a willingness to put that teaching into practice. All are important. Each needs to be incorporated into each Christian's life.

None can be overemphasized at the expense of others. When one area is overemphasized an imbalance is created. The resultant Christian life then becomes like the motorist weaving across all lanes of the highway from ditch to ditch. It may not only be dangerous for that person but also for others who may be watching and trying to follow the errant one in his unbalanced ways.

Remember, as you travel through life that you must maintain a balanced Christian life for the Spiritual well-being of yourself and others.

HEIRS OF GOD

In Romans 8:16-17 we read, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then HEIRS; HEIRS of God, and joint-HEIRS with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

The Apostle Paul gives us a beautiful picture in this chapter of the relationship between God and a true Christian. A true Christian is an HEIR of God.

An HEIR is one who inherits all or part of a legacy coming from an ancestor or predecessor, a gift of property by will, usually received from the donor after his decease. A legacy can be money, real estate, stocks and bonds, heirlooms or anything held as valuable in the mind of the donor.

Such bestowals to an HEIR is generally conveyed by a will. We have the Will of God before us in the HOLY BIBLE. When we become HEIRS of God, we become joint HEIRS of Christ, sharing with Christ in the legacy God wills for Christ and us. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1. "We know that we have passed from death unto life,..." I John 3:14.

John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from DEATH UNTO LIFE." ETERNAL LIFE is the greatest INHERITANCE one can ever obtain. An HEIR receives the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:11 holds a very wonderful promise. "...he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by HIS SPIRIT that dwelleth in you."

Romans 8:15, "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, FATHER." Through being re-born and also by adoption, we become the sons and daughters of God, HEIRS of His and joint HEIRS with Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:21, "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Another very wonderful gift of His HEIRS!

In Galatians 3:27, 29 we read, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and HEIRS according to the promise." Galatians 4:7 states, "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an HEIR of God through Christ." Being a son instead of a servant puts a Christian in direct lineage to be a rightful HEIR.

Titus 3:7 states, "That being justified (that is, freed from the guilt and penalty of sin) by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

In conclusion, we read in James 2:5, "...and HEIRS of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him." Man often utterly fails in carrying out promises he has made but not so with God. God's promises are definitely sure to be fulfilled. We are promised a home in Heaven when this life comes to an end, providing we have lived faithful to our vows and faithful to his Word.

To His HEIRS, "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even ETERNAL LIFE." I John 2:25

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Overcoming Discouragement

All of us experience discouragement at some time in our lives. It is a normal part of life. It becomes abnormal only when we let our discouragements become a barrier between us and our Lord or other individuals.

Discouragement is that feeling of hopelessness about some situation or maybe a sense of failure, despair or loneliness. It is no respecter of persons. Discouraged people are everywhere...from youth to the aged. Yet, for all of those who find life unbearable, the Word indeed has good news for you.

The Word can allow you to transform an aimless life into one with value and direction. It can take your discouragement and absorb it into the pages of God's love. It can help you to understand that Jesus loves you and cares about each minute aspect of your life.

The Word can give you triumph in regard to a physical handicap. It helps you to understand the will of God for you personally. It helps you to overcome complaining to God with, "Why me, Lord?" You begin to really see His faithfulness to you. You see that He has been working with you all along and He can handle your burdens. Look at Helen Keller. She achieved a lifetime of satisfaction in spite of her disability of deafness and blindness. "I thank God for my handicaps," she said, "for through them I have found myself, my work and my God."

God can give you special grace for living with personal illness. Very few people can rejoice when they are ill or suffering pain. Emotional fatigue contributes a great deal to discouragement.

But God's resources are great. You can know His power and the power of prayer and get great support during this time.

Another great discouragement is surviving the death of a loved

one. It carries a great sting. Yet, Christ came to conquer death. Our faith in Him gives us the power to overcome and become "MORE THAN CONQUERORS." We have the hope of resurrection. We can trust God that those who die in Him will never die. We can have relief in this fact in our time of sorrow.

Remember, beautiful stained glass windows are made by skilled artists who take small bits of shattered and broken bits of glass and form them into something wonderful. That is how faith works. Through faith God can take the shattered bits of our lives and make them into something lovely.

There is the discouragement in our vocation. Success isn't always easily measured and it is difficult to assess the contribution we are making in our everyday life. What one calls success to another is failure. Jesus said, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26) Being creative wherever God has you at the moment can help you to emerge above the feeling of frustration and help you to live successfully for Him.

Even in marriage many people find disappointments. Our attitude that is developed from an understanding of God's Word will carry us through and help us to understand and love our mate in a special way. Rather than letting discouragement cause us to criticize, exert pressure, and generally give a feeling of not being accepted, let God transform you into the loving person you should be...then you can work toward the right love relationship with your spouse.

Discouragement comes when we are unaware of the presence of God. This grows into a great fear which can lead to depression and discontent. It can destroy all that is good in life. If you are discouraged at this time, don't give up in despair and indulge in self pity. Instead, replace your negative thoughts with positive ones. Believe that God will hear and answer your prayers. Open your heart to His love and allow His Spirit to work through you. Turn your whole life over to Him and give Him first place in every situation. Rise above your discouragement by: Turning tribulations into triumphs; failures into fortunes; setbacks into successes; obstacles into opportunities; burdens into blessings.

Remember the words of this prayer: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; and Courage to change the things that I can, and Wisdom to know the difference." Remember, too, that Jesus promises you that you can be an overcomer in this world...even as He was. (John 16:33)

Brother Len Wertz

FIRST OF ALL A CHRISTIAN

I Corinthians 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Many times we have heard the phrase, "First of all I am a Christian." This phrase can carry with it a good connotation or a bad one depending on exactly what the speaker means by the phrase.

With the modern trend of pluralism, which includes the teaching that all religions are roads to God, it is important that we identify ourselves as Christians in the historic definition of this term. It is also important that we see ourselves first of all as a Christian in the sense that Jesus Christ has preeminence in our lives. It is so easy to allow the things of this world to crowd out the importance of serving Jesus Christ.

The idea that we are first of all a Christian also includes the thought that we have something in common with others who are part of the true faith. Just who this includes and who it excludes, we believe, many times must be left in the divine wisdom of God. One thing is certain. If it does not include everyone of all races, colors and nationalities as being possible brothers and sisters in Christ we are not putting Jesus Christ first in our life but our own prejudices!

Some say that first of all they are a Christian meaning that if they accept Jesus Christ as their Savior they can do whatever they want to with the rest of their life. Scripture makes clear that both our body and our spirit are God's. However, many try to separate the two. Thus you have "christian" movie stars, rock and roll musicians, sports figures and many others with worldly occupations. We realize that today it has gone beyond separating the body and the spirit and that a large segment of christendom has "baptized" the things of the world. But it started out with the thinking of "first of all I am a Christian." Along with this goes the idea that if first of all I am a Christian, God is not concerned with the type of clothing we wear or with the outward appearance of our bodies at all.

Like Brother James Meyers said at our Mechanicsburg revival, "It is time we stop asking what is wrong with the things and start asking what is right about them." If we truly desire to be first of all a Christian we will not see how far away we can walk from historic Christianity and the Word of God and still get to Heaven but will desire to walk as close as we can to the both of these. Some seem as if they like those who play "chicken" with a rushing freight train while driving an automobile. But the end results will be much more disastrous than mangled bodies along a train track. It will be soul and eventually body cast into Hell for all eternity and for everlasting torment.

Do not be deceived by those who say that a loving God will not cast anyone into Hell. He is loving but he is also the final judge of all the

earth. For those who teach that a one time conversion experience (and some of the "only believe" advocates do not even believe in an experience with the Lord) will keep you from the judgement of God we will allow Holy Scripture to speak for itself. Revelation 20:13-14, "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." Then in Revelation 21:7 we read, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be his son."

Finally, we have heard the phrase "First of all I am a Christian" by those who seem to be implying that what we believe as Bretheren is not really all that important. As we stated earlier, it is true that we have something in common with other believers. However, in our mind our Bretheren faith as we practice it is the Word of God being put into practice. It is true that an outward appearance does not prove that we are right with God. On our way to Mechanicsburg meetinghouse we saw a van with what appeared to be plain people pulled along the side of the road. But a closer look revealed men with plain straw hats with lapel suits and ties and women in slacks. We decided they were tourists who had purchased plain hats along the way. Only God knows if they were a part of His family, but they were certainly not plain. In our opinion they were also not "first of all a Christian."

In conclusion, remember we are bought with a price. Therefore we are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, which are God's. Jesus Christ bought us with His precious blood on the cross of Calvary. We can accept this or reject it. We can also be "first of all a Christian" or give Him all of our life. Only the last will give eternal assurance.

Brother James M. Hite
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GET A VISION

Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish:..."

I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found,
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground."

-Oatman

Years ago when flying an airplane the pilot had to be able to see the ground in order to land the plane. Today, with modern instruments it is not necessary. Those who climb mountains like to be able to see the top of the peak they are climbing, but often it is covered in clouds. All of us at one time or another have driven an automobile in deep fog, and how we rejoiced when we could see again! One of my favorite

scriptures is at the very end of Deuteronomy. God did not allow Moses to go into the Promised land because of disobedience, but before he died Moses was allowed to look at Canaan for just a little while. He was able to see, before God took him to a better place, that God was fulfilling His promise to His people.

Like Moses, I do not believe God will leave us comfortless. It is true that our religion is one faith. But I believe if we are faithful God will give us a glimpse of "glory bright." Just as Elijah traveled forty days and nights on the strength of one meal, so God can bless us with a vision to last us all our days.

Abraham believed God because he had a vision. He scoffed at first. Who would believe such an old couple having so many children? But when he looked to the future by faith and saw the children of his children, not yet born, he had a vision that kept him all his days.

Likewise Simeon had vision. He believed God, waiting for the consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. As he held this baby Jesus in his arms in the temple he saw the fulfillment of the scriptures and the Holy Ghost's visit. He said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." What vision! I believe Simeon died happy and went on to be with his Lord. He believed God would redeem His people, although it did not happen in his lifetime. He never got to hear the teachings and see the miracles of Jesus. He never saw Him die on a cross and be resurrected. Yet he knew it was true. In that little babe was the salvation of all mankind.

In "The Pilgrim's Progress", what was it that kept Pilgrim going? It was vision: a promise of the future, of fellowship with his Lord, of a home in Heaven, and glory forevermore. A vision of God and Heaven will turn aside discouragement and the ravages of sin. We will look to God, and not the "things" of the world which drag us down.

Have you a vision?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1931

A HEARTLESS WORSHIP

J. F. Britton

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their

lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:7-9)

It should be noted that this text is a denunciation of a heartless worship, characterized and clothed in pretense and hypocrisy. The text is also a reiteration of a prophesy given by Isaiah saying, "Wherefore the Lord said, For as much as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:." (Isaiah 29:13.)

No wonder God through the Holy Spirit, directed Paul to warn us against those modern hypocrites, by saying, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (II Timothy 3:1-5)

Reader, can you think of a more serious and glaring mockery as a heartless worship? Deceiving, and being deceived. "Be not deceived: God is not mocked." A heartless worship is equal and equivalent to a Christless worship. For God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Hence, it would be preposterous to think that there is any spirit or truth in a heartless worship that is actuated by deception and mockery. While it is possible that we may deceive others, or even deceive ourselves, it is impossible to deceive Him, who knows and sees the very secret thoughts, intents and purposes of our hearts, before they are expressed in word or action. "...but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:13)

No wonder Jesus said, "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." (Matthew 23:13.) The 23rd verse reads, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgement, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

These Scriptures as well as many others, disclose the fallacy and absurdity of a heartless worship. Therefore, it stands to reason, and is logical that true and spiritual worship must be clothed in real reverence and humility, and characterized by faith, love and obedience. This exposition is verified in the imperative message sent by God to the

"Seven Churches of Asia." "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." (Revelation 3:1.) Here is a nominal church with a heartless worship, as well as some of our modern churches.

It occurs to the writer, that our modern churches, in their mad rush after the vanities, frivolities and the transitory things of life, that they have become so blinded, and unconscious of the fact, that they are continually under those scrutinizing and omni-present eyes of Him, who "is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12.)

The second clause of our text reads, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Can there be anything more impotent and imprudent for poor finite man, in his depravity and limitations, to assume to displace the Holy Oracles of God, "With the teachings, doctrines, and commandments of men."

No wonder Jesus will say to those scribes and pharisees, hypocrites: in the great judgement day, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:23)

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

My Big Book

J. H. Moore

When I was about twelve years old a book agent came to our home and had a long talk with my father. He had with him a large, well-bound book, in which he seemed very much interested. I did not listen to the conversation, nor can I say that I felt any concern about what was going on. I liked the appearance of the book, but the thought of attempting to read so large a work never entered my mind.

At any rate, the agent went away, but left the book. He, of course, carried some of my father's money with him. Of this I thought a little strange, for my father impressed me as a man who was exceedingly careful about his expenditures. A few days later I heard him tell mother that the book agent had pulled the wool over his eyes.

For months the black book, as we called it, lay around the house, but no one seemed interested in what it contained. In the front were a few pictures that attracted my attention, but aside from these pictures I gave the book no thought whatever. A few months before I had, for the first time, read a part of the New Testament through. One day I told my father that I wished I could read something about Jerusalem. He told me there was something about Jerusalem in the book he got of that agent. The place was found, and I read the account with intense interest.

This led me to leafing through the book and I happened unto the part about the Revolutionary War. This was the first time I knew about such a war, and I do not know that I ever traced the lines of history with such eagerness. It made me hungry for history, and I read and reread the long chapter. Looking through the book I found a splendid sketch of Washington, then another of Columbus and the discovery of America. All of this was to me like a revelation.

But I soon caught onto the fact that the contents were arranged in alphabetical order, and that I could find something on any point in history that I could think of. With this discovery I was elated. The book proved to be F. A. Durivage's "Popular Encyclopedia of History, Ancient and Modern." It was in fine print, two columns, and contained 750 large pages.

I put in every spare moment on the book. To me it was a regular mine of information. Every day brought something new to my attention. It was the only book I had to read, and, in fact, I did not feel that I needed anything else. A few years later, when it became necessary for us to leave our Missouri home, to escape the ravages of war, and only a few things could be taken in the wagon, I managed to find a place for my big book. I walked over two hundred miles barefooted, had no shoes and only scant clothing, but I could not think of leaving my book behind.

After reaching the land of safety, and though we had to struggle hard for a living, I did not neglect my history. In fact I was about sixteen years old before I had the privilege of reading any other work. I went to my book for everything that I wanted to know along historical lines. Here I read the history of the different nations of earth, read about the leading men of every generation, and about the occurrences in general that had taken place, so that I easily became one of the best-read boys in history in the neighborhood. When it came to history I was always ready for a talk, and when occasion demanded it, I would argue with most any person that tackled me.

I have been glad, hundreds of times, that the unknown book agent pulled the wool over my father's eyes, and induced him to purchase the book, that remained my constant companion for years. The falling of this book into my hands was the most fortunate thing that could have happened to me. It came to me at a time when I could not attend school, and when I had nothing else to read. True, for a boy it was heavy reading, but in the absence of schooling it was just what I needed for the training of the mind. It laid for me a good historical foundation, and on this foundation I continued to build all the years of my busy and active life. To me this book agent was an angel in disguise. He went his way: we never saw him again, but I certainly would like to have told him the story of at least one book that he sold to an unwilling purchaser.

OMNIPOTENCE

Mark Burns

The sunlight displays God's brightness and beauty,
The moon and the stars, His unending love;
And we, everyone, should feel it our duty
To thank Him for blessings sent down from above.
'Tis as a small puddle, the whole of the ocean;
The winds and the rain all obey His command
Fierce lightning and thunder by Him set in motion-
It all is controlled by His powerful hand.
The massive expanse of the sky can't ignore Him;
The host of the Heavens, all trembling, do flee;
And Time, with it's centuries, is paltry before Him,
For He is the Master of eternity.
The mountains just prove of His might and His power.
The birds and the brooklets both tell of His mirth.
His radiant dew on a sweet-smelling flower
And all of the beauty He placed on this earth...
Are but little tokens of God and His Glory,
Just poor, feeble tokens for humans like me-
My weak, mortal mind couldn't grasp the whole story,
If I just a glimpse of His Heaven could see.
All of my life, as a vapor transparent,
Is here for a second, then gone into space;
All this poor flesh, with its evils inherent
Shall vanish away at the frown of His face!
But tell of His mercy, oh, tell of His blessing!
And tell of His goodness and judgement so true!
Come, take of the love of a Father caressing
And enter the joys He prepared there for you.
Selected

If WE were a young person incarcerated for an unjust cause, separated from home, loved ones and abused in many ways, would our testimony be the same as is evidenced in this poem? Would we have the faith and stamina to press on as did Paul and Silas who prayed and sang praises to God at midnight in prison? And Peter being delivered from prison said, "Now I know of a surety that the Lord hath sent his Angel and delivered me." Praise God for deliverance!

Sister Ruth Speicher

GOD'S GIFTS

He gave me eyes, that I might see the work that I might do for him. He gave me ears so that I could hear the cry of those that need me. He gave me lips that I might speak, to those that are seeking comfort and peace. He gave me a mind that I might know how to help those that need me most. He gave me hands that I might use them to do some small or simple task for a loving friend. God gave me time each day, so I could pray for guidance from above. But the greatest gift He gave me was a heart so I could love every one. Now as the years are drawing near the end, I pray that I will still find goodness in every one. And may I be satisfied when days are less than sunny, knowing Love was made for sharing. These wonderful gifts were given each of us so we will live close to Him. So when the end comes we will be ready to meet our Dear Lord and spend eternity with Him. This is my prayer.

Sister E. M. Alltus

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

We, the Englewood Congregation, are once more contemplating another spiritual uplift when we commemorate our Lord's death and what He has done for us. On October 26 services will be held at 11:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M. and the Lovefeast will be at 7:00P.M. Services will also be held on Sunday, October 27.

We have been rejoicing for the baptism of Sister Mary Wagner and entering into our fellowship by her brother Danny Wagner.

If the Lord wills, may our services be blessed by many visiting members.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

The weekend of May 4-5 was very special to all of us here as we held our first Lovefeast services. Elder Rudy Cover was our only visiting minister, so he was very much appreciated in helping with the preaching services, and he also officiated during the Lovefeast Saturday evening. We enjoyed having Sis. Esther here also. Other

visitors who made the trip to share the weekend with us were Bro. Claude and Sis. Melba Flory, Bro. Rick and Sis. Anna St. John and family, and Bro. Marvin and Sis. LaDonna Lorenz and family. Each one helped to make the weekend a real blessing, as we commemorated the Lord's death and meditated on the sacrifice He made for us so that we can live eternally with Him.

Sunday, September 1, we officially became the Pine Ridge Congregation of the Dunkard Bretheren Church; each of the fifteen charter members probably always will remember the special experience of being a part of organizing a new congregation. Elders Edward Johnson, Robert Carpenter, and Harley Flory served as the officiating Bretheren in the service. In addition to the organization, Brother John Meyers was installed into the Deacon's office, along with his wife Claudia.

The Elders divided the time both morning and evening, challenging us to be a light in our community and to labor for the Lord until He comes. We were happy to have their wives, Sisters Pauletta, Majorie and Clarice, and children Jason, Marlin, and Shannon come along. Our time together was precious. Bro. Claude and Sis. Melba were here, too, to share in our special experience.

As a further blessing that day, Bro. Galen Shelly from Pennsylvania taught our Sunday School class. We all felt that we were truly privileged to have been a part of the service.

Our visitors during this past summer also included William and Alice Heisey, Fred and Diane Pifer and family, Jim and Sally Meyers and family, Rudy and Rhonda Shaffer and family, and Earl and Dorothy Blocher. We have appreciated the help in the ministry, as well as enjoyed the fellowship and presence of each one. We welcome all those who make a special trip to see us, or who are just passing through on their way to other places.

Sister Freda Heisey, Cor.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). Showing the ownership, management and circulation of The Bible Monitor, published semi-monthly at Wauseon, Ohio 43567, October 15, 1991.

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2. There are no stockholders, bond holders or other security holders.

3. The average number of copies per issue distributed by mail and otherwise the previous twelve months was 1,362.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1991

November 3 - Victory, Overcoming by Faith - I John 5:1-9.

1. What is the "victory" we are seeking?
2. How is faith our key to victory?

November 10 - Eternal Life in the Son - I John 5:10-21

1. When does eternal life begin?
2. What role does Jesus, the Son, have in eternal life? verse 12

November 17 - THANKSGIVING - Acts 28:1-31

1. When should we give thanks? Ephesians 5:20
2. What relationship is there between our gratefulness and our service?

November 24 - The Elect Lady - II John 1-13

1. Who was the Elect Lady?
2. What is the warning given in verse 8-11?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1991

November 3 - Seeking GOD - Deut 4:29-31, Psalms 105:1-8, Isaiah 55:1-8, Luke 11:9-10, Acts 17:26-31

1. How do we seek God?
2. What are the rewards of seeking God?

November 10 - Thoughtfulness - Deut 32:1-5, Jos. 1:8-9, Haggi 1:4-7, Psalms 1:1-6, I Timothy 4:15-16

1. Define meditation.
2. What promises does God make to those who meditate on His Word?

November 17 - Honor of Parents - Ephesians 6:1-3, Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 1:8, Luke 2:51, John 19:26-27

1. What are the rewards for honoring parents?
2. List some ways you can bless your parents.

November 24 - THANKSGIVING - Psalms 92:1-2, I Chronicles 16:8-12, Ephesians 5:19-20, Phil. 4:6-7

1. How can you express gratefulness to God and man?
2. Are you thankful God only gives you what is best?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NOVEMBER 1, 1991

NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD KEEPS HIS OWN

I do not know whether my future lies
Through calm or storm:
Whether the way is strewn with broken ties,
Or friendships warm.

This much I know: Whate'er the pathway trod,
All else unknown,
I shall be guided safely on, for God
Will keep his own.

Clouds may obscure the sky, and drenching rain
Wear channels deep;
And haggard want, with all her bitter train,
Make angels weep.

And those I love the best, beneath the sod
May sleep alone;
But through it all I shall be led, for God
Will keep his own.

- Sarah Knowles Bolton

THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP

Throughout the Bible, there are many allusions to shepherds and their sheep. These allusions are found in the Shepherd Psalm, the Good Shepherd, the shepherds watching their flock by night, the ninety and nine, as well as in many other situations. Each of these allusions speak of the shepherd's care. They also speak of the characteristics of the sheep that are under their care.

The land of the Bible's events has always been an area where shepherds have tended their flocks. They have not used the modern methods adapted to huge flocks grazing over many sections. Theirs has been a more personal involvement with individual sheep which have names. The shepherd has an intimate relationship with his few sheep, caring for them to the extent that he would risk his own life to rescue them. That intimate involvement is illustrated by the parable that Nathan shared with David that spoke of that sheep as one of the family.

David was a shepherd when anointed to be the next king of Israel. He knew what was needed to protect and to provide for his sheep. He also had an insight into the kind of care God had over His own. He could write of that Shepherd who cared not only for the bodily well-being of the sheep but also for their Spiritual well-being. He could relate the shepherd's work to the care the Heavenly Father has for those who are under His care and protection.

This love and concern is illustrated by Jesus, the Good Shepherd. In Psalm 23, David writes of the Shepherd leading them out to pasture and water and into safety in the fold watched over by the appointed watchman and porter.

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Jesus tells something about the sheep that the Good Shepherd watches over. They hear the voice of their shepherd. They do not willingly or longingly follow any other voice. They know from past experience that their shepherd has cared for them and will continue to care for them. They are not afraid to follow wherever He may lead them. He is seeking the best for them although the terrain may not look that way at that moment. They will not willingly follow a stranger. The stranger who is bent upon the destruction of the sheep will most likely try to drive them rather than lead them.

Jesus also speaks of the danger of the wolf that is disguised as one of the sheep. It is for the sheep to listen to the shepherd's voice and avoid the one who under false pretenses might lead them to destruction.

The Good Shepherd is concerned lest some of the flock might wander away into places of danger. The young are apt to not realize the dangers they will be in if they wander from the rest of the flock. Many times the shepherd must go from the comfort and safety of the fold to try to find that lost one who has wandered away. Some, though a great effort is made to bring them back, will continue to go in their dangerous way. Although the shepherd has to give up his own comfort to find that lost sheep, he is so interested in its well-being that he is willing to carry it back to the flock on his shoulder rather than beating it with a stick and driving it back.

The characteristics of the sheep are some of the characteristics that should be found in the followers of Jesus Christ. Like the sheep the Christian should be willing to follow the shepherd. The shepherd knows what is best for His sheep. He has their best interest at heart. He has even left His instructions for them to follow. He also has appointed undershepherds to work with the sheep during his absence.

The sheep are dependent upon the shepherd for their daily food and drink. Many places are inaccessible for the sheep to get a drink so the shepherd has to lead them to the still waters. There are grasses and weeds which are poisonous which do not look much different than the good pasture. The shepherd must keep his flock from eating these. The sheep following Jesus today need to pay heed to the warnings given about the places and things that are dangerous to the souls of the sheep., although they do not appear to be so dangerous, only pleasant.

The sheep need direction in avoiding the schemes of Satan who would appear often as one of the sheep, when he actually is a wolf, bent on destroying the flock. He appears as an angel of light and his servants as ministers of light to confound and lead astray the unsuspecting sheep. They need to listen to their shepherd.

Sheep are the most defenseless of all creatures. They have very little ability and even less inclination to defend themselves. Christians should be emulating sheep by being more nonresistant in their behaviour.

We have a Good Shepherd, let us follow Him as true and faithful sheep, knowing He is seeking the best for us. By following Him more closely we would be seeking the best for ourselves. Now is the time to be identified as a part of His flock. Are you?

JESUS CHANGES THINGS

In John 2:1-12 is recorded the first miracle which Jesus performed. At a marriage in Cana, Jesus and his mother were present. Jesus' mother informed Him that they had no wine.

Jesus' mother told the servants that whatever Jesus told them to do, to do it. They provided six water pots with a capacity of two or three firkins apiece. A firkin is one fourth of a barrel. Jesus told them to fill the waterpots with water, which they did, brim full. Jesus said, "draw out now and give to the governor of the feast." They did as directed and the governor declared it the best wine served at the feast. He CHANGED the water into wine.

We have an account in Mark 5 of a great change that Christ wrought in a man. A Gadarene was possessed with a legion (many, many) of devils. He wore no clothes. No man could bind him and no man could tame him. Night and day he cried out in the mountains. He cut himself with stones. He met Christ. Christ had compassion on him. He commanded the devils to come out of the man. They did. Christ sent them into the nearby swine, numbering about two thousand. Those castout devils set the swine crazy, so much so, that they ran down a steep place and were all drowned in the sea.

That was only a part of the change in this man's life. People saw a great change in this man. Once possessed of devils, now he was free. He now wore clothes. He was in his right mind. He no longer resided in the tombs and mountains. He no longer scared the people. What a wonderful change! Jesus CHANGES things.

Wouldn't there be a great change among people today who appear so scantily dressed, among hippies who are so untidy, and sexual deviates, if they would meet up with the Christ and follow Him? He can and will change them if they call upon Him. Truthfully, Christ is the only one who can CHANGE a sinner from his evil ways.

To bring CHANGES into the lives of people was a big part in Christ's leaving His father's Throne and coming here to be on the earth.

In Luke 8:22-25 we have recorded another great change Christ brought about. He and the disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee. A storm arose, their boat filled with water and they were in jeopardy. Christ was asleep. The disciples awoke Him. "Carest thou not that we perish?" They were quite concerned and afraid. Christ arose from His sleep. He rebuked the wind and the water. Then it was calm. There was a two-fold CHANGE in this instance. The wind and the water became quiet and calm. The disciples fear was changed to comfort. CHRIST DOES CHANGE THINGS.

Christ's changes are always for the better. Christ was able to change the course of nature. He performed miracles to show human beings that He had that power. He stated, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18.

We should be greatly interested in the fact that He can change our Spiritual outlook, and change our final destiny. He can change a sinner into a saint. He can change the penalty of sin, which is eternal death, if an individual accepts Him, to the reward of Eternal Life.

The changes He makes in our Spiritual out-look is just as easy for Him as the changes He makes in man's physical condition. He changed blindness to perfect eye-sight. He changed the deaf to hear. The lame to walk. The dumb to speak. The dead to life and so forth. He was never challenged by a change He could not accomplish.

When Jesus appeared in Galilee, the Word says, "The people which sat in darkness, saw a great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up." A pronounced CHANGE.

Hebrews 7:12. "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." Christ, who is our high Priest, brought about the CHANGE of the LAW to GRACE. How much easier it is to live under GRACE than under the LAW!

Philippians 3:20-21, "For our conservation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,..."

I Corinthians 15:51-53, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be CHANGED, In the moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

That change will be a permanent CHANGE which will endure through all Eternity.

When we seriously meditate on the seriousness and full meaning of Passion Week, when Jesus paid with His own life, for the re-

demption of OUR sins, and we have set our house in order, we can truly say, as Job of old said, "I await until my CHANGE comes."

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Understanding your guilt feelings....

We can only truly understand ourselves as we understand God's Word and His will for our lives. A condemned prisoner once wrote a letter to the minister who had led him to the Lord. It read, "Sorry to inform you that I have been called upon to depart this life. I hope this letter does not upset you. I also want you to know that I firmly believe that I shall meet the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior and not as my judge, because I believe all of the promises of the Bible. I have been reading and studying the Bible all of my time here in prison and I am hoping the Lord will continue to bless your ministry. I am hoping to see you in the great beyond."

Even though this man was condemned to die, he knew he was set free by the Almighty God. He had found release from the GUILT of all sin by believing in Jesus and trusting Him for salvation. He was cleansed by the blood of Jesus and had been washed clean in baptism.

You, too, can experience release from guilt. Forgiveness is within the reach of each one of us. There may be times when we are faced with the reality of guilt... the kind of guilt that makes our life miserable. It is then that we need to ask, "How can I be forgiven, completely forgiven for everything?" We need to be asking this question if we want to experience peace within ourselves, with others and with God.

The promise of forgiveness is sure. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Will good works release you from guilt? No. Our wrongs against God can never be righted by simply doing good. Good outweighing the bad can never bring peace. The kind of peace that God gives can come only by repentance on a regular basis and through faith in the forgiving power and function of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repentance is awakened in our heart by a godly sorrow for the sins that we commit. It is a desire to change our life. It is confessing our sins and asking God to forgive... and it is a willingness to turn our back on sin and go on toward sinlessness in our lives.

This is the kind of repentance that brings peace to our heart... a peace that can be found in no other way.

Join your life in a yoke-fellowship with Jesus and accept His peace. His yoke will fit you perfectly and He will give you rest for your soul. Don't try to punish yourself for your sins through guilt feelings but look to Jesus for acceptance and forgiveness and He will cleanse you.

We need to understand true guilt contrasted with false guilt. True guilt is real. It is real because it comes from violating God's laws. The capacity to experience real guilt can be helpful because it leads us to the One who will set us free. God will release us from all guilt through our faith in the Lord Jesus, our Savior.

False guilt is a strong guilt feeling when someone has done nothing to feel guilty about. People experience that. Life becomes difficult to live when we do not experience true guilt feelings but instead impose our guilt on ourselves and others for no identifiable reason. When we continue feeling guilty even though we have been forgiven, we lose our peace and joy and do not understand God's love.

Perfection in Christian living is a great goal and is something we go toward. Even though we obtain this state of being when we are eternally united with Jesus in death, yet we go on to attain it in knowledge and moral conduct continually in our daily life. The Apostle Paul said he was constantly working toward this goal so he did not have to feel false guilt that arises from a troubled mind of not claiming forgiveness.

I know many people who are fearful that they have committed the unpardonable sin which is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Many times this feeling comes as a result of false guilt and you need to take this to the Lord in prayer when the feeling comes over you. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit comes about when you continue to reject God, Christ and His Spirit as well as His Word. If you have not rejected Christ and have not given yourself completely over to the control of Satan, you have not blasphemed the Holy Ghost.

The emotional conflict that grows out of false guilt creates a chain reaction of more guilt and negative fear. Morbid thoughts fill your mind. Life becomes fearful each day and you become tired as your mental resources are depleted. You do not experience the feeling of forgiveness. Ultimately Satan gains victory over your life and you lose your fellowship with the Lord. Remember, Jesus just asks you to come to him and seek forgiveness with a sincere heart... and His blood will cleanse you once again from the ravages of sin. You must claim the promises of God's Word... because this only will set you free... free from guilt, fear, anxiety, and despair.

BEING CONTENT

Phillippians 4:11, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

The Apostle Paul learned a spiritual lesson that we believe is badly needed today both in society and in the Church. The dictionary definition of "content" is "happy enough with what one has or is." It seems very few individuals fit this description. Most of those who are classified as being millionaires desire to become billionaires. The myth that we can be content if only we make a specified amount of money is just that, a myth. Those of us who never expect to see a million dollars at one time in our lifetime are usually just as bad. No matter how modern our house, most of us long to improve it or buy a bigger or better one. If a man owns a farm it is not long until he usually desires to own two or three farms of that size. We desire to have the newest and best car, truck or station wagon available and many times one of each.

According to some statistics, the lack of contentment has led to more divorces than marriages in our modern society. Unfortunately, the divorce courts now include as many church members as non-members. There was a time when the only reason for divorce recognized within the church was for adultery. Today any reason (or no reason) is acceptable within many of our modern denominations. Even preachers are divorced today (and some even remarried) and continue preaching.

The sin of abortion is rampant in our society largely for two reasons. Our young people are not content to wait for marriage to experience the pleasures that go with it. Or individuals are not content to struggle to raise another child. While fornication has been a problem since time immemorial it is only in more recent days that it has become acceptable within society and even in some church circles. We wonder at the fact that in times gone by individuals often barely had enough to eat yet raised families of eight children or more. Today we have those who have a new home, a new car, thousands of dollars in the bank, both parents working and yet "could not possibly raise more than three children." But they can always afford an abortion! With this, we are not about to tell our government what laws should or should not be made, but we feel it is a shame that a law says that it is alright to murder an innocent baby while a mass murderer may be eligible for parole in ten or fifteen years!

Many church members now play the lottery because they are not content with the amount of money they have available. Bingo games, dances and other worldly amusements are to be found within church walls to keep the young and the old content. We realize that is a whole lot easier to be content when you have a full stomach and

money in the bank. Yet we cannot ignore the words of the Apostle Paul. "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." So called Liberation theology which includes violent action against governments that supposedly are unfair as well as peace marches, hunger marches and a demand for equal distribution of money between the rich and the poor is not only without scriptural support but is actually opposed by scripture. If we work in industry, do we conservative Christians have the same type of thinking when we complain about our wages and desire a part of the profits made by the company we work for? Should a farmer expect the government to subsidize his crop loss or accept money for crops he does not plant?

There may be a reason why an individual is not content with the way his church is going. We have already listed some of the sad state of affairs to be found within the earthly church. But many are not content to be guided by rules and regulations set by a church body. If the guidelines being presented are not scriptural then it is probably best to leave and find a body that is preaching and teaching the truth. In extreme cases it may be necessary to be limited to family worship or a very small group. We are persuaded that the recent trend of discontent with our Brethren heritage is a first step in the possible spiritual decline of our church. We came out of a body of believers we felt was moving towards apostacy. We believe time has proved this move to be right. Now are we moving in the same direction?

We should never be content with our spiritual experience until we can say with the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." We confess that we have not come to the point where we would be completely willing to lose everything for the sake of Christ. Yet that is what is demanded of us. While we SAY it is Christ, all too often it is SELF that we are relying on. Would we really be content to suffer persecution and live in poverty as the vast majority of early Christians did?

We hope that you are not content to continue in your sinful life if you have never given your heart and life to Christ. His shed blood is ready to redeem you. It will cost you something but the end results leave no comparison.

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TRIAL BY FIRE

II Corinthians 4:17, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Job 23:10, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Psalms 119:67, "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."

The early church was persecuted for its faith in Jesus. The Caesars of Rome demanded complete allegiance, even to the point of worship. They considered themselves gods. Anyone taking allegiance from them was a threat to them, and was destroyed. But the church took the persecution gladly, feeling privileged to suffer in the name of Jesus.

We will have to endure many sufferings in this life: persecution for Jesus' sake, ill health, loss of loved ones, financial setbacks and the like. At the time none of these things seem pleasant. We often do not know which way to turn, but let us never forget the testimony of the three brethren in our text. The Apostle Paul, who in his Christian life had much beset him, called these sufferings "light afflictions." Compared with eternity they last only for a brief moment. If we are saved, these afflictions keep us looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Many say that Paul, before he died, was crippled and blind, but we do know for sure that he was stoned and left for dead and he was scourged to the point of death. How many of us can say we have endured such trials in the name of the Lord?

Job, who had done nothing to receive the stripes he endured, suffered not only physical affliction but the grief of losing his loved ones and his fortune, had faith to believe and trust in God. "He knoweth the way that I take." God knew Job had chosen Him and that when his suffering was over he would glorify Him. We need to learn to not blame God for our afflictions, but rather to Glorify God for them, for they are given to make us better. God chastises those whom He loves. Praise His Holy Name!

The Psalm writer knew how human he was, but when God allowed affliction to come his way he turned to God. The scripture tells us that those who have suffered in the flesh have ceased from sin. The desires of the afflicted are toward God, because they have used up their own strength. When we reach the end of ourselves, we then can see God and do His will. Why must we suffer? Because we are human and are constantly rebelling against God, and also because this life is only a preparatory place for Heaven. The attitude of most of this world is that this life is all that there is. But the church must

warn others: "Prepare to meet thy God". Regardless of what we have to endure here on earth, it will be worth it all when we meet Him face to face.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1931

CONDESCEND

Grant Mahan

In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote: "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate." He was giving advice, instruction, to those who had begun the Christian race. James wrote much the same thing in his General Epistle, though he referred to money rather than social position. And Jesus taught the same thing when he told his hearers that when they were invited to a house they should not seek the highest seats, the places of honor, but the low places. The doctrine of humility is stressed in many places of the Bible. And that must be because men, even after taking upon themselves the name of Christ, do not want to become humble, do not want to seek what is low in the financial or social world.

Yet the promise of exaltation is for those who condescend, who mind not high things. This refers to the things of time, the perishable things. When it comes to what is really worth while, we are told to seek the highest. Paul said to follow him as he followed Christ; and Christ said we should strive to be perfect, even as our Father in Heaven is perfect. We are not to labor for the bread that perishes, for the treasure which moths will corrupt and which thieves will try to steal. We are not to seek to be lords over God's heritage or any other, for Christ is our great Exemplar, and He came to serve.

The thing that is so hard for most persons is to condescend, unless it can be done to show their superiority in some earthly respect to the one to whom they condescend; and when one condescends in that way or with the spirit, there is no virtue in the condescension, and there will be no desirable reward for it. The outward act of condescension is of no value in and of itself. Outward humility, of itself, is of no value. A good deed will help the recipient, but it is of little or no value to the doer thereof, unless his heart is in it. The true character is in the heart, not in the outward action or expression.

Most of us probably agree that humility as advised by Jesus and his apostles is a good thing. And yet how much do we practice? And

how much do we advise it when we are talking to our children of what they shall do in life? Success is the greatest reward we urge them to aim at; and by success we mainly mean success in the things of time, not those of eternity. And too often a man is counted as a failure if he has not succeeded in accumulating money or has not acquired some high position. Lazarus was a failure from the viewpoint of Dives, but from God's viewpoint the judgment was just the opposite: Dives made the greatest of all failures. And so it is with every one who lays up treasure on earth, and is not rich toward God.

Condescend means to get down, to get down with the other fellow who has not been as fortunate in some respect as we have. It means "to waive one's privilege of rank or dignity; to accommodate one's self to an inferior." The greatest condescension ever made was that of Jesus; who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might become rich. To condescend means, in the Christian sense, to get down with the other fellow in order to help him to get up to what is better than he has. It includes helping man to better himself financially, intellectually, morally, and spiritually; and to do it for love of him, from an unselfish desire to help him to better things.

Condescend does not mean to get down with a view of staying where the other man is, but in order to help him to something better. Christ came down, not to stay down on earth, but that we might get up, up to a spiritual life here, and to lasting communion with Him and the Father hereafter. We can do nothing better than follow that example; we can do nothing else so good as that. We all know this is so, and that to do as He did is showing the highest wisdom on our part, and yet, our pride so often keeps us from doing the best things.

We object to getting down; we are afraid, if the man we should help is below us in some way, that we should be considered as much of a failure as he. Why is it that we have that feeling, when we know it is not the right one? It is not the Christ Spirit; and we are very plainly told that "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Thank God that our salvation does not depend on what we have of earthly possessions or on our social position.

We need to be condescending, but not as if we were doing some great favor by stooping, not as if we were doing something beneath us; but because we love our fellowman; because Christ condescended, and we want to be like Christ.

Real and lasting happiness does not come from pride, but from humility, true humility. All of us want to be happy here and hereafter, and we are told how we can be; it is up to each of us to decide for himself whether he will follow the master's steps to the desired goal.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Grand Old Man

J. H. Moore

The breaking out of the war in 1861 found me a boy with my parents on a farm, sixteen miles south of Osceola, Mo. We had witnessed the passing of large armies, had seen the contending forces on the way to meet each other in deadly conflict, had heard the distant rumbling of artillery, and fully realized that our whole State would soon be exposed to the ravages of war. Siegel had fought his battle at Carthage. Gen. Lyon had been killed at Springfield, and his proud army, which passed our farm on its way to the field of battle, had been defeated. Bands of Confederates took possession of the country, and we felt that we were no longer safe in our homeland.

The hasty loading of a few necessities in a two-horse wagon, locking the doors of a well-furnished house, leaving our cattle in the large, wooded pasture, leaving hundreds of bushels of grain in the stacks, and a night departure from the place that had to us for five years been "home, sweet home," made up a scene in my early experience never to be erased from memory. There were eight of us, Father, mother, brothers and sisters. The next morning we were joined by two other families, our purpose being to make our way, if possible north, and reach Illinois, which we regarded as the land of safety.

It was a long, dusty trip in the hot month of August. As three of our family were sick at the time, no room could be spared for me in the wagon, so I walked practically the entire distance. We finally reached Adams County, Illinois, almost destitute, and located among the Brethren near Liberty. The suffering endured on this trip and the hardships of the winter that followed need not be told, but they were the most bitter experience of my life.

It was here that I met Eld. George Wolf, then over eighty years old. It was my good fortune to be in his presence a great deal, and I spent many an hour listening to him expound the Scriptures, or narrating some interesting incident connected with his former life. I never grew tired of his interesting narratives, for he settled in Illinois long before it became a State, and probably knew more about the hardships and experiences of the pioneer life than any man in the State.

The good old man lived in the rear end of the farmhouse occupied by his son David, who was also a well-informed minister, and a man of much influence and enterprise. The building was large, neat and commodious. At the rear stood a well-preserved log house, onto

which the main building was joined, which, I presume, had been built by Eld. George Wolf in an early day, at least it was many years his home. For his exclusive use he had one large, comfortable room provided with a good fireplace, in which he always kept a brilliant fire in cool weather, and on damp days. His wife had preceded him to the other world, so he spent much of his time alone. Many times have I stepped to the half open door to get a glimpse of the venerable old man, as he sat in his old armchair gazing steadily at the fire. He seemed as one waiting for the boatman to come and bear him away to the other shore. Here he sat, day after day, thinking as only aged people can think and meditate. His eyes were too dim to read much, and he was too heavy and feeble to travel with comfort.

In appearance Eld. Wolf had something about him that marked him as a man far above the ordinary. He stood over six feet in height, had broad shoulders, and weighed more than two hundred pounds. His head was very large, forehead lofty and gently retreating, eyebrows gently arched, and beneath were large, piercing eyes, that never failed to attract attention. He was a man that would have commanded attention in any company. He was one of nature's great men, eminently qualified for the wildest range of thought, and seemed to be a born leader of men. As a thinker he had few equals; as an expounder he would command almost universal respect, and impress one with his superior, yet unassuming greatness. His very presence, and manner of address, inspired an audience with confidence. In the community where he lived, his name and good deeds will never be forgotten. His life and adventures, if carefully written, would make one of the most interesting biographies ever published.

To be with the grand old man, to listen to him talk by the hour, to hear him deliver an occasional address, and to be inspired and impressed by his marvelous personality was the most fortunate period of my life. He impressed me as the first great thinker I ever met. When I consider the hardships endured in trying to reach the North, and the losses suffered because of the war, I count all these as nothing compared with what I gained by being thrown in company, at an early age, with one of the most gifted thinkers, and the most profound reasoners that it has ever been my good fortune to meet.

I cannot get away from the thought that the hand of God was in all these experiences. I have been a busy man. I have mingled with public men the greater part of my life, but the sight of that good old man still remains with me as I saw him seated in his large armchair, gazing into the fire that burned in his old-fashioned fireplace.

DON'T WAIT, IT COULD BE TOO LATE .

"Remember, thy creator in the days of thy youth." Do not put off until tomorrow, what you can do today. Tomorrow may never come. Accept Him while you have the opportunity, for you are only sure about now, this moment. No one knows what will happen in the next minute.

You hear young and old people saying today, "we still have plenty of time to accept". Let us remember for some there won't be a tomorrow. So many things are happening every day. Many people are killed each day. None of us has any assurance we will be here. It will be very sad if you had not come to Christ to have your sins washed away. It is so nice to come while you are young. Do not make an excuse when God calls you, but start living a Christian life.

Read your Bible every day, and pray for others still out in this old world. The Bible is such a wonderful book to read each day and meditate on. It seems so sad that Christians do not take time to read and study. In Psalms, David tells us to delight in its messages and to meditate upon its contents. Are we reading our Bibles every day?

I heard a woman say she never had read the Bible, but still thinks she will be saved.

Christ wants to be a part of every one's life. He died for all of us. Sin is the thing that keeps us from Christ. It is up to us. Are we willing to follow the world and not be able to have our names in the Lamb's Book of Life? We will never be able to go to Heaven. Let us give our hearts and lives to Him before it is too late. Let us not be like the five foolish virgins who were not ready. It indeed is going to be very sad when we stand before God, condemned and lost forever.

Sister E. M. Altus

Could you change all the pebbles in the beach into minted money, or conjure into bank notes all the leaves of the forest; nay, could you transmute the earth into a single lump of gold, and drop it into the gaping mouth of avarice, _ it would only be a transient comfort, enabling it to cry "Give, give!"

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THANKSGIVING

For all true words that have been spoken
For all brave deeds that have been done,
For every loaf in kindness broken,
For every race in valor run,
For martyr lips which have not failed
To give God praise and smile to rest,
For knightly souls which have not qualified
At stubborn strife or lonesome quest;
Lord unto whom we stand in thrall
We give Thee thanks for all, for all.

For each fair field where golden stubble
Hath followed wealth of waving grain;
For every passing wind of trouble
Which bends Thy grass that lifts again;
For gold in mine that men must seek,
For work which bows the sullen knee;
For strength, swift sent to aid the weak,
For love by which we climb to Thee;
Thy freedom, Lord, yet each Thy thrall,
We give Thee praise for all, for all.

- Margaret E. Sangster

THE HARVEST

The Summer has passed, the season for harvest has come. The hard work of preparing the soil and planting the seed was done during the Spring. The rains and the sun have had their effect upon the crop. As the crop has matured during the Summer, many hopeful eyes have watched its development. Now is the time to bring it in. The result of all the time, money and effort invested is known now.

Is this harvest bountiful or is it skimpy? Are we pleased with it or disappointed? How will we use it? Is it hoarded away in the barn or is it put to good use? Is the excess being wasted or is it being shared with others? Is it being received with thankfulness or with grumbling?

It is no accident that we celebrate Thanksgiving at the close of the harvest season. It gives us a special day to remember how good the Lord has been to us. Often we need to come apart from our daily routine and have a special occasion to make us think seriously about how we have been blessed.

Certainly, the Pilgrims were thankful for the harvest they had received. It had been very doubtful through the Summer whether they would have the abundance that they did. They were thankful, for this harvest meant life for them through the coming winter in the harsh elements they now called, "home".

We have been blessed with not only the necessities of life but with many luxuries as well. Many of our luxuries have become so common that we consider them to be necessities. When we have so much beyond the basics, we have a tendency to not be as thankful for what we do have, as when we have little and must depend upon God to supply us from day by day. The usual thoughts concerning a harvest have to do with the crops planted, grown and harvested from the field,

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garden and orchard. We need these kind of harvests for the good of our bodies. But we need to also think of the Spiritual harvest at the end of this age.

This crop also has a time of planting, growth and harvest. From the time of conversion until the time of death, there is to be growth, that produces Spiritual fruit that will be worthy to be harvested and will bring pleasure to God. The planting occurs at the time of baptism, when the believing, repentant person is planted in the likeness of Christ's death. There in the picture of death begins the resurrected, changed life, that is an image of the resurrected Saviour. With the indwelling of the Spirit, there is life within and the potential for growth and productivity. The Spirit gives the connection with God like the sap of the tree carries life to the remotest twig and leaf. Thus the Christian abides in the lifegiving root, Jesus Christ. God always desires to have productive vines, so He uses the trials of this life to get the tree in shape to produce more fruit, just as productive trees are pruned. When all the planting, cultivating and caring for the crop is finished there comes the time of harvest. This is the time that has been anticipated throughout the whole time of planning, planting and growing. The time of harvest cannot be predicted with great precision. The approximate time may be guessed at, but conditions may cause either a delay or an advance in the maturing process. There are times when the crop is destroyed before it ripens. The unpredictableness of the time of harvest corresponds to the unpredictability of the Spiritual harvest. There is none who know when that time will come in his life. There may be indications that death is near for the one who has lingered, but there is no warning for the one cut down suddenly by an accident. The time the Lord sets for each to be harvested is known only to Him, whether it would be an individual harvest or a harvest of all.

There are many warnings given throughout the Bible about the time of death and judgement to come. There are not only warnings that each should be ready for that time, but there are instructions concerning how all should prepare themselves.

That harvest needs to be prepared for just as earnestly as for the field crop. A successful farmer will expend much labor and planning toward the success of his crop. If that earthly crop deserves such effort, then the Spiritual harvest demands an even greater effort.

There needs to be planning for a successful Christian life. There needs to be a desire for godliness; it doesn't just happen. There needs to be the planting of the Christian seed in the Spiritual rebirth. There needs to be cultivation of the growing crop to keep out any hindrance that would weaken the Spiritual life. There needs to be the feeding of the crop so it will grow even stronger and be more pro-

ductive. The Spiritual life needs to feed on Bible study, prayer, singing, fellowship and service.

Then comes the harvest. Are you ready for that harvest. Is it a harvest for which you will be thankful?

THE LESSON IN A "STORY"

Dear fellow pilgrims en route to our heavenly home in Christ Jesus! The following article is part one in a series of three. I trust each of you will study the contents collectively, and endeavor to glean from them the many lessons contained in this Bible story.

An effort has been made to set the narration in a place that would have been entirely conceivable for Christ to have ministered his healing touch on the characters involved. Though imaginative, I trust that each of you will allow the truth woven into the fabric of this story to touch your heart. Jesus is not a name to be "doctrinized" into obscurity. Rather, it is a glorious name where ordinary words fall short in ascribing honor and meaning.

The following is an attempt to capture the emotion of the moment of CLEANSING in one man's life. It is my prayer that the thrill of wholeness that must have electrified his spine that day, is felt by each of us. And that its tremors may give to each of us the courage to lift our sin numbed hands toward the one who DID die on calvary! With just a spoken word our spiritual health can be just as dramatically restored. Come with me and feel the warm breezes of Galilee in your face. You may even feel the hand of the Teacher fall lightly on your shoulder.

Baruch clutched his garments tighter around his waist as he hurried toward Zippori. He, compared to the people he passed, was noticeably overdressed. He'd lost track of the number that had brushed passed him, almost forcing him from the road. Spitting vehemently as if to show his contempt for that "better than thou crowd", he righted himself and continued purposefully on his way.

He muttered to himself, Call me a lunatic will you, Say I'm stark mad. His guffaw broke the stillness. If they only knew! He laughed again as he pondered what their reactions might have been if they had just known that the long cloak and leather leggings he wore concealed a body deformed and badly rotted by the dreaded disease - leprosy.

Baruch's mind lazily drifted back to his childhood. Life had been so glorious then. Why, he had run and played in the tall grass while watching the sheep with his father. Looking into the fields by the road he recollected how often he had run through meadows just like these, and kicked at the wild flowers growing there. He remembered the

feeling of the cool mud between his toes beside the many streams that watered the flat lands, he had even skipped stones in some of the quiet pools after the sheep had been watered.

He remembered as well the many afternoons that his mother had walked out to them with a fresh meal of cheese, bread and goats milk. She was so pretty and loving. He could almost feel her gentle arms gathering his tired little body up after the long days. He ached to be loved again.

The moisture in his eyes made navigating the road impossible as vivid images of Jennifer wafted before his unseeing eyes. What a fitting name for such a delicate perfection he mused to himself. He had waited so long to find a girl like his mother. Jenni had brought much happiness to him with her tinkling laughter and quiet way of caring. Not to mention the joy they had shared at the birth of their little girl.

The sting of a whip falling across his shoulders dragged him back to reality. He moved to the side of the road and left the youths pass by. Retorting was useless. They barely noticed him cowering there. It didn't matter now anyway, the sting of the whip was trivial compared to the icy hammer-like blows that the leprosy had dealt his heart.

That was then, this was now. Now he couldn't even feel the hard road beneath his numbed feet. There were hardly enough fingers left on his hand to pick up a stone and skip it in a pool. His mother and father had since died, broken-hearted, he had watched their burials from a distance.

Jenni and their little bundle of joy were as much strangers as anyone he had ever met. She at first had brought him food and left it under a rock near the colony for him. Sometimes she used to stay and talk while he ate, but daily had turned to weekly, and now hardly at all. He didn't blame her because his condition had worsened so rapidly, but he missed her, it gets so hard talking to people who are as deformed as yourself or worse.

Leprosy had taken everything from him but his zest for life. The fire in his eyes still blazed. It was hope that did it really. Hope was why he was traveling to Zippori. He had heard the stories that flitted through the grape vine. There was a young man traveling the countryside teaching the people about God.

The things that Baruch had heard had made so much sense. Never before had the scriptures been explained with such power. That man made God seem real. It was whispered that this young man was God incarnate! Theology had never been Baruch's strength. He didn't know if this man was God or not, but something within him told him that if he could just talk to the teacher, everything would be okay.

As he rounded a bend in the road, Baruch's prize lay within reach. Just up ahead in the field was a crowd of people. They were sitting in a circle around a lone figure who stood authoritatively at the crest of the hill. That had to be the Teacher. He continued his hurried pace till he reached the edge of the crowd, there he hesitated.

Fear washed through his soul and chilled him to the bone. The sheer mass of people made him uneasy. In his nervousness he almost blurted out "unclean, unclean", but that would have been suicide. Surely the people would have stoned him had he revealed himself now. He had traveled too far and risked too much to be this close and yet not speak to Jesus. So certain had he been in his cause that he had long since discontinued the cry that labeled him cursed among men. Along with that he had covered his head as well as removed the telltale mark from his lip.

He paused again, but this time the quiet words of the teacher filled his ears, He had said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; Speak, and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. For what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Matt. 7:7-12).

The "words" though simple, fell like the first Spring rain onto the parched waste land of Baruch's heart, breeding confidence. He surged forward again toward the teacher with renewed vigour. He just knew that this man could make him whole again, if He wanted to!

From a distance the words had brought peace, up close the eyes poured forth hope. There was something different about those eyes. Baruch hadn't been able to place it but now he knew what it was. Their penetrating gaze almost made him stumble yet he pressed forward. He felt naked before Him. Baruch shivered, not from fear this time, but from acceptance. The teacher at a glance seemed to have looked through the tattered bandages that wrapped his crusted feet. He knew that the arms clutched inside the cloak were missing fingers, yet instead of disgust, the teacher seemed to be smiling, almost as if He had been expecting Baruch.

Baruch fell to his knees under the gentle gaze of Jesus and reluctantly raised his eyes to meet His. Yes, they were different. Different than any other eyes that Baruch had ever looked into. Unlike the disgust and condemnation that had filled the eyes of the priest when they had pronounced him unclean, Jesus' eyes were like.....

Yes, Baruch voiced his musings in a hoarse whisper, "It is almost as if He would gladly give His life, to heal me!"

To be continued
Brother Galen Scott Shelly
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THE VOICE OF THANKSGIVING

Psalms 26:7, "That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Colossians 4:2-6, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

Do we as Christians, wait until the calendar tells us it is time to express our thanksgiving to God? Is "thanksgiving" merely a table laden with food and a time of good fellowship? Certainly we should thank God for the food that He has blessed us with and there is nothing more wonderful than Christian fellowship. But if we are truly thankful it must go beyond our circle of family and friends. Do our hearts truly desire "that I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works?"

The Apostle Paul gives us some instructions how this should be carried out. First of all we are to continue in prayer. Paul takes for granted that we have established a prayer life. In I Thessalonians he instructs us that we are to "pray without ceasing." Our prayer life should not consist of asking God for things that we need or sharing our problems, although these are legitimate parts of our prayer life, but should include thanking God for His wondrous works. Are we truly thankful that the Lord Jesus Christ died upon Calvary for our sins? That His shed blood can cleanse us from all unrighteousness? That He walks with us and talks with us and tells us that we are His own, to paraphrase the hymn writer?

If we are truly thankful then we should desire "that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ." The plain people, as a whole, are often castigated because we are not prone to go out knocking on doors or "force our religion on others." We are aware that Christ instructed us to "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be

filled." And perhaps it has been true that we lack a strong missionary spirit. But we also believe that much that is done to "win souls for Christ" is done in the flesh rather than in the Spirit. We do not believe that it should be our desire to win others for Christ so we can have rewards in Heaven, but that we are so thankful for what God has done for us that we desire to share it with other needy souls. Furthermore, if God does not open unto us a door of utterance all our witnessing will be in vain. He will make it manifest how we ought to speak. He knows the heart and needs of each individual.

While all need the same cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and all unsaved are in danger of the fire of Hell, not everyone should be witnessed to exactly the same. The book of Jude verses 22 and 23 instructs us thus, "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

While we are to express the need of a Savior, we must be careful that what we do, does not speak so loud that no one will hear what we are saying. Paul puts it this way, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without." Are we really expressing our thanksgiving to God if we are not honest about paying our bills? There are some that will confront a member if it is found out that outstanding debts are not being paid. If there is a need the community of believers will take steps to help the individual to meet his debt. However, spending money for non-essentials while not paying a legitimate debt is not accepted. While this may seem harsh to some of us and may seem to be meddling in someone's personal business, we believe it is good to have order within a Christian community. We are also persuaded that avoiding worldly amusements and dress is walking in wisdom.

Our speech should always be with grace. If God would judge us as we often judge others we would be in deep trouble! While we must never "white-wash" sin we must always love the sinner. Part of our thanksgiving is that God loves us while we were yet sinners. But our speech must also be seasoned with salt. We cannot lie to others and tell them that God will not judge sin. The saying, "I thank God that I can never be lost again," is nothing but a man made lie.

May we express our voice of thanksgiving in the songs we sing, the prayers we pray and most of all in witnessing to others. May our life styles always reflect and compliment our voice of thanksgiving.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1931

BE YE THANKFUL

Lawrence W. Berry

As we approach this season of the year topics of this nature are more or less appropriate. It seems fitting and proper that as the season passes by and the harvest of the fruits of the earth has been gathered in that we should pause for a bit and look up with grateful hearts to the giver of all good gifts. Especially is this true when the season has been a fruitful one and we have received such a bountiful harvest that our cellars and storehouses, granaries and mows are full and overflowing with good things for man and beast alike. Then, too, it seems we should be especially thankful that our Heavenly Father has seen fit to provide such an abundant harvest at a time when there is so much want and destitution on the face of the earth. It seems to the writer that upon a little thought, our subject would suggest three questions:

Who should be thankful?

To whom should we be thankful?

What should we be thankful for?

We shall notice these questions briefly. Our subject is "Be Ye Thankful." Now first, who does the "Ye" refer to? It is a common error with human nature to look at the other fellow and point out his needs, weaknesses, opportunities and responsibilities and overlook our own. This would be possible in this case I think when we take into consideration the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. On matters before us we have sufficient evidence to convince us that all men everywhere both great and small have great reason to be thankful. So, in the application of this subject, the writer would have the "Ye" to mean each and every one of us. Indeed with all the needs, destitution and suffering amongst men on the earth at this time, there are very few but what have something to be thankful for. Just a little review of our past year of life would reveal to all of us many blessings for which we should feel deeply grateful. So let us each take this matter to ourselves.

To whom should we be thankful? As we notice this important phase of the subject we certainly ought not to overlook the many deeds of kindness and love extended to us by our neighbors and friends which have contributed to our welfare and happiness during the past year.

To such we surely ought to be grateful as possible, when we stop to consider, we have not been as neighborly and helpful to others as

we might have been and did not deserve the favors which they bestowed upon us. Yea, let us be thankful to those of our fellowmen who have lightened the burden of life for us. Then too, we should be thankful to the rulers of our land who have made it possible for us to "lead a quiet and peaceable life." When we take into consideration the conditions existing in many of the nations of the earth at the present time, truly we have much to be thankful for, that we are so favorably situated.

Most of all, though, we should be thankful to Him who has made all things possible which we enjoy, who has created all things and "in whom we live and move and have our being", the Almighty God of the universe. When we pause to consider to whom thanksgiving should be extended it is without question our Father in Heaven deserves the "first fruits" and the choicest, the very best of which we are capable of offering. No doubt it was a subject such as we are dwelling upon that prompted the writer to pen the lines, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow", and indeed he is correct for there is no good thing that comes to man but what this Supreme Being, who is so great and powerful that we cannot comprehend him and yet so merciful and easily entreated that, "As a father pitieth his children so pitieth he them that fear him", deserves the credit and praise for it all. Yes, let our thanks be extended to the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last, the "Creator", God.

What should we be thankful for? We have already pointed out a number of things for which we should be thankful, all of which are worthwhile and deserve mentioning. There are other matters, though, which the writer considers more vital, more worthy of note for which we have greater reason to be thankful. Important as the temporal blessings are, they are but a trifle when compared to the "Spiritual" blessings. While the temporal blessings are important and necessary to the welfare of this physical body which perishes, the spiritual blessings are necessary to the never dying soul of man. So we should be thankful that the door of mercy is still standing ajar. That our God has not as yet said "It is enough," that pardon and peace are still within reach of the weary sin-sick traveler; suggesting to us the thought that our Maker is "longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but that all might come to repentance."

I fear we do not appreciate this fact as much as we should else we would be more in earnest in gathering souls in, before the "door is shut," when mercy ceases.

Then too, we should be grateful for the everabiding "Spirit" which is continually striving to "lead us unto all the truth" and which strengthens, comforts and consoles us amidst the bitter trials and tribulations, without which our efforts would be futile and our hopes

blasted. Yes, the "straight and narrow way" would be a hard way were it not for this heavenly comforter, the "Holy Spirit." Do we appreciate it as we should? Then, too, let us be thankful for the "Angel of Jehovah that encampeth round about them that fear him to deliver them." Many are the narrow escapes that we pass through unharmed, which in these perilous times, suggest to us the deliverance of this "Heavenly bodyguard."

Many and varied are the blessings which come to us from above. For the daily food which we gather from the "Word", the "sweet hours of prayer", the "beautiful hymns we sing", the "joy we have looking for the return of our Lord." For those of like precious faith to associate and fellowship with, which we so much need in order to be obedient to the "Perfect Law of Liberty", working out our soul salvation with fear and trembling. For a church body that is striving for the "Faith once for all delivered to the saints", where we feel at home and to which we can contribute our means, talents and energies with a clear conscience as unto God. That by a careful consistent life we are able to maintain our integrity as a people of God in a world that is so Godless and sinful. For the promise we have from Jesus himself, no matter how corrupt this world may become, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

For all this our hearts should be lifted up with thanksgiving and praise continually. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." (Col. 3:15).

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.

In I John 1:3 we read, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have FELLOWSHIP with us: and truly our FELLOWSHIP is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Webster defines FELLOWSHIP as: Association with those of similar beliefs, companionship, Brotherhood, friendship and mutual understanding.

Humanity demands FELLOWSHIP. There are very few hermits in the human race. There is a trait built into the human breast that calls for the company of others. In Romans 14:7 the Apostle Paul tells us, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."

The thought of FELLOWSHIP is evidenced by the innumerable lodges, secret societies, clubs, organizations, fraternities and so forth that men and women readily become members of. Many obituaries include a long list of organizations the deceased was a member of, often the obituary does not mention any Church affiliation, THE ONE MOST NEEDED AND MOST BENEFICIAL. When we are baptized into Christ's Church, we enter into a FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD and like believers that far excels and surpasses all other fellowships on earth.

With references to the early Church, we read in Acts 2:42, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and FELLOWSHIP, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

The Greek word for Church is "ECCLESIA", which means called out. That means called out from the world. The world fellowships together. God has provided wonderful FELLOWSHIP for the called out, the Church people among themselves in communion with God, Christ and the Holy Ghost.

The Psalmist David, in Psalms 122:1 wrote, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." WHY? Because in the house of the Lord there would be TRUE FELLOWSHIP AND SWEET FELLOWSHIP.

A true Christian cannot fellowship with the world. II Cor. 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what FELLOWSHIP hath righteousness with unrighteousness?..." Eph. 5:11, "And have no FELLOWSHIP with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." I John 1:6-7, "If we say that we have FELLOWSHIP with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have FELLOWSHIP one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

True conversion brings us into the FELLOWSHIP of God. When we are baptized, we are born into the FELLOWSHIP and family of God and become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

It is a rich experience for Brethren and Sisters to come together for Lovefeasts, District Meetings and General Conferences. There is nothing on this side of Heaven to compare with it. The Lovefeast is a foreshadow of what perfect FELLOWSHIP we will experience when we sit around the Lord's table in Heaven and Jesus serves us. Jesus offers a standing invitation to those outside the fold of safety. In Rev. 3:20 He said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

It pays huge dividends to open your heart's door and let Jesus the dear Saviour come in. **THAT WILL PROVIDE TRUE FELLOWSHIP.**

Brother Paul R. Myers
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ARE WE PERFECT?

The question we will attempt to answer is, "Is the Christian perfect?" You may be, but I am not. The Bible tells me that I have been made perfect (justified) through Christ. As long as I am in the will of God and in the hollow of His hand I am justified. When God looks at my life He sees Christ, on the basis of the fact that Christ has forgiven me and is my Saviour because I trust Him daily to do so and be so.

I look at those who came to Jesus and were forgiven. I see the thief on the cross, Matthew the tax collector, Zacchaeus, Peter the fisherman, and many others. All these people, like me, were sinners. Christ was more than happy to forgive them, because they were genuinely sorry for their sins and knew they had no other recourse but to come to Jesus. I believe, in my case, the Holy Spirit dealt with me over a number of years, and as with Paul, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

How we must remember our frame. God does. He knows we are dust. But we cannot knowingly enter into temptation without knowing the possible consequences and without knowing that, like Samson, God will not always protect us if we are careless. We must pray God's protection each day, but we should not even give the appearance of evil.

Those who say, "I am perfect", can claim this on the basis of Jesus' justification. We can say, therefore, "Jesus' blood (His sacrifice for me) has made me free from the law of sin and death." Does this give us the right to sin? Romans says, "no". Does it give us power so that we cannot sin? No. We still have an obligation to seek a holy life by following the scriptures and seeking the will of God daily. People who try to live this life without first being converted will not be successful and their lives will be truly miserable.

When we become Christians our desires change. We want to serve God. We pray daily. We search His Word. We wait upon Him. We rely DAILY on His grace to see us through. Does this mean we cannot fail? WE can fail, but IN CHRIST we have been perfect. We cannot blame Him if we fail. He is able to keep us. But we must trust Him.

Some folks think God controls us like robots: that it is entirely up to Him whether we stand or fall. Others, on the other hand, think it is entirely up to us. This fight between Calvinists and Arminians has gone on for centuries. I believe the answer is between the two. We cannot save ourselves by our good works, but yet God cannot save us unless we are willing. If we pursue sin, He will let us. God is able to save us, but we must be obedient.

Are we perfect? God says we are if we obey Him, yet we cannot allow a statement like that make us proud. Pride will cause us to misstep. Do not walk around saying, "I am perfect", but rather say, "By the grace of God I am what I am."

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Influence on Children

Strong or weak personalities are formed in childhood. If there is a lack of proper love by parents or a failure of parents to spend sufficient time with their children, it will produce a fertile field for frustration in their lives. Of course, there has to be a balance between too much protection and restraint and leniency to be effective parents.

Parents who exercise cruel, harsh discipline toward their children may well create feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness that will eventually lead to emotional conflict. Children gain their basic self-image from parents and associates early in life. They feel about themselves the way they think others feel about them. If a child is ignored or neglected, he may feel unwanted. Every person is worth understanding and needs love, acceptance and security.

Read again this well known poem by an Unknown Author and let its words sink thoroughly into your soul.

If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.

If a child lives with jealousy, He learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.

If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and fellowship, He learns to find life in the world.

Brother Len Wertz

NEWS ITEM

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation was happy to have Bro. Edward Johnson and his wife, Sis. Pauletta with us for a week's revival. We were told Bro. Johnson brought many timely messages and showed deep concern for the church and lost souls.

May God continue to bless him and his wife with strength and wisdom as they go forth in the Lord's service.

A lamb, Monica Siegrist, daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Lucy Siegrist answered the Shepherd's call and Sis. Kinita Sensenig, wife of Bro. Jeremy Sensenig made her wants known to unite with the church on her former baptism.

Nelson and I were thankful we could be home for the end of the meeting after being in Georgia for treatment for Nelson's cancer.

Thanks to all the Brothers and Sisters who remembered us with cards, words of encouragement and most of all your prayers. We could feel the prayers of the Saints by the strength and peace of mind we received.

We ask a continued interest in your prayers for complete healing and thank and praise the Lord for what He has already done.

May God richly bless each one and again we say "Thanks!".

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

Crates threw his gold into the sea, saying, "I will destroy thee lest thou destroy me!" If men do not put the love of the world to death, love of the world will destroy them.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1991

December 1 - Following That Which Is Good - III John 1-14.

1. What is our standard of good?
2. How diligently are we following after good?

December 8 - Contending for the Faith - Jude 1-7.

1. Define "contending for the faith".
2. Why is it necessary to contend for the faith?

December 15 - Judgement of the Ungodly - Jude 8-16.

1. What are the "way of Cain and Balaam?"
2. Do we have "spots in our feasts of charity?"

December 22 - THE BIRTH OF CHRIST - Matthew 2:1-23.

1. Are we willing to surrender our throne like Herod?
2. What gift will you give Jesus this year?

December 29 - Keeping in the Love of God - Jude 17-25.

1. How do we stay in the love of God?
2. Are our garments spotted by the flesh?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1991

December 1 - Our Friendships - I Samuel 20:1-42.

1. What impact do your friends have on you?
2. What impact do you have on your friends?

December 8 - Our Duty - Romans 12:1-21.

1. What is the basis of our living for the Lord? Romans 12:1.
2. What is our life duty? Ecc. 12:13.

December 15 - True Safety - Psalms 91:1-16, Proverbs 3:21-26.

1. In what ways does God keep us safe in this life?
2. Who are you looking to for spiritual security?

December 22 - BIRTH OF CHRIST - Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-11.

1. What does Jesus want from you this season?
2. What do you plan to give Jesus this Christmas?

December 29 - DIVINITY OF CHRIST - Luke 22:69-70, John 10:1-42.

1. What proof do we have of Christ's divinity?
2. What does Christ's divinity mean to you?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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DECEMBER 1, 1991

NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A LAST PRAYER

Father, I scarcely dare to pray,
So clear I see, now it is done,
That I have wasted half my day,
And left my work but just begun;

So clear I see that things I thought
Were right or harmless were a sin;
So clear I see that I have sought
Unconscious, selfish aims to win;

So clear I see that I have hurt
The soul I might have helped to save;
That I have slouthful been, inert,
Deaf to the calls thy leaders gave.

In outskirts of thy kingdom vast,
Father, the humblest spot give me;
Set me the lowliest task thou hast,
Let me repentant work for thee.

- Helen Hunt Jackson

WHO IS TO BLAME?

We are always interested in assigning the blame for events that happen; especially for those happenings that violate justice and fair play. Even in everyday events, there is an effort made to determine who is guilty of breaking either an object or a rule. This happens at home, at school, at play and at work. There is a great concern about who is to blame for what happened, which all feel should never have happened.

The most unfair event that ever happened in this world was the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. All others have done wrong, but He never did one thing that was wrong or harmful. He had gone about the land doing good for all with whom He came into contact. He not only sought the physical and material well-being of the people, but He was especially concerned about the Spiritual well-being of not only those then present but throughout the world throughout history. His concern for their Spiritual welfare brought Him into disrepute with the religious leaders of the Jews. Their jealousy and close-mindedness kept them from accepting Him and His message. Eventually they came to the point of being willing to maneuver events so He could be falsely accused and put to death.

They carried out their plan to the extent of accusing Him, but they did not have the civil authority to have Him put to death. They needed the help and connivance of the ruling Roman government. They were able to convince Pilate, the Roman governor, that it served his self interest to condemn Jesus to die. His soldiers carried out his orders with vengeance in whipping and taunting Jesus. The accusations of the Jews and the condemnation of the Romans led Jesus to Calvary where He was crucified. Who was to blame?

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Blame could be laid on the Jews and particularly their leaders. They had opposed and harassed Him throughout His Earthly ministry. The Jews had even made the statement that His blood should be upon them and their children to all generations. The Romans could be blamed for allowing the power of the government to be used to put to death an innocent man. Because His death was not for His own wrongdoing but for the sins of all people, the blame might be placed upon Adam and Eve, when they sinned in the Garden of Eden. Perhaps others could be blamed for His unjust death.

While hanging upon the cross, Jesus prayed that the Father would forgive them for they did not understand what they were doing. We can believe that the Father did forgive them for Jesus came to do His Father's will. If He did His Father's will then it was the very thing that the Father was desirous of doing. Jesus would not have asked for something that was contrary to His will. The sin of the Jews and the Romans was forgiven, though they did not fathom what He meant at the time. Although some would teach that they were responsible for His death so an extra burden would be placed upon them, Jesus' prayer of forgiveness cleared them of any extra responsibility, making the Father's forgiveness as available to them as to any other person who so desires it.

The real culprit in the death of Jesus is each person. As the descendants of Adam and Eve, we each have inherited the sin nature. We each have been guilty of doing wrong, either through omission or commission. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 6:23. Since none of us can come up to God's standard of perfection, we need to consider ourselves as Paul considered himself, "the chiefest of sinners." His sins may not have been as heinous as those of others, but he realized that they had a part in the death of Jesus. However men might consider the degree of seriousness of their sins, still each has sinned, and by that sin each has a responsibility for the death of Jesus.

Jesus died as the perfect sacrifice for imperfect men, since they could not approach God in their imperfect Spiritual condition. He died for each one; that makes each one responsible for His death.

Each should consider himself to be like Barabus. He was a chief criminal at the time Jesus was being persecuted. He was guilty of insurrection, murder, robbery and other heinous crimes. He had been captured and sentenced to die by crucifixion between two of his gang members. Jesus took his place on that cross, when the crowd answered Pilate that they preferred Barabus over Jesus. The guilty was set free and the innocent died in his place. Each of us is alot more like Barabus than we would like to think, but we are just as guilty as he was. We are responsible for the death of Jesus. He died because of us and He died for us.

Who is to blame? The Jews and the Romans had a part in the immediate circumstances of His death, but they are no more responsible than any of us. Who is to blame? You and I.

DESTROYING THE EVIDENCE

A nine year old boy enters a variety store and sees a pocketknife that he really would like to have. He stands there looking at it for quite a while but leaves the store without doing anything. A week goes by. He returns to the store and after a while gives into the temptation to steal the pocketknife. On the way home he has a change of heart and, in sorrow over his sin throws the knife away. Does throwing away the knife absolve him from the crime?

Three boys, Bill, Bob and Jeff, enter a store. They conspire to steal a pocketknife. They are seen by a clerk, and Jeff, the boy with the knife sneaks it into Bill's pocket and all three flee the store. The three go their separate ways. Halfway home and scared, Bill realizes he is in possession of the knife. Struggling with his feelings he throws it in the river. Does throwing the knife away in this case make Bill innocent of the crime?

In both examples money is no issue. All the boys could easily have gotten the money required to purchase the knife. Sin was the issue. Throwing away what was stolen did not make it right.

Today there is a very prevalent and similar sin prevading the world. Our modern technology has made many things possible: some good, some bad. Today a woman can "make a mistake" and go to the hospital or a clinic and have the "mistake" removed or destroyed. But those people who have been touched by the love of God do not see this as a mistake, but rather a sin, and that sin is called abortion. People are sinning and throwing the product of their sin away, just as the boys did in our illustrations.

How can we as Christians show the world that sin is not redeemed by destroying the evidence? Achan hid the things he stole, and Israel did not prevail against her enemies. Achan was put to death, as well as his family even after he confessed his wrong doing. Achan knew all too well that what he was doing was wrong. Did hiding the spoil absolve him from wrong doing?

Years ago most sin was done under cover of darkness because there was a law, a morality in the land which condemned sin. Today, sin is flaunted to the point where those who do it no longer realize that it is sin. People live together without the sacrament of marriage. Women, who use to hide the fact that they aborted babies, now talk of it openly, saying they didn't "want" the child. Now whether or not an abortion is committed depends on "want" or "convenience." It seems so odd to me to read of day old babies getting heart trans-

plants, when at the same time a full-term baby is aborted, because the mother did not "want" it. God is being mocked on every hand, but the scripture tells us of the swift punishment for those who mock God, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." We can destroy the evidence, but our sin will be shouted from the housetops.

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Bits and pieces for Thanksgiving"

ON COURAGE: Christians are the strongest men and women on the face of this earth. You need not look very far into God's Word to see courage that surpasses human understanding. But, many of us would like to have more of this quality. I would like to give you five short rules that, if you follow them, you will increase your store of fortitude.

1. Act as if you are courageous. God lives within you and you can be brave. Challenge yourself to believe that He is able! He is able to keep you in the most fearful of situations.

2. Pause to reflect on the others in our age and in ages past that have faced great discouragements and great obstacles and have overcome them by God's grace and love.

3. Remember that your life moves in a sort of a rhythmic pattern and if you feel down and without the power to face life... you might well just be at the bottom of a mood swing. This is a time to pray for greater courage and victory and the Holy Spirit will empower you for action.

4. It is a known fact that a person feels more defeated at night than during the day. Remember, courage comes with the sun... and by the SON. We are people of the day. Don't let the "lord of darkness" gain access to your heart and steal your victory.

5. Courage is the measure of an enlarged soul. This is one enlargement that you want in your body! The closer you live to God, the greater will be your courage.

ON PERSPECTIVE: About ninety percent of the things in our lives are probably right and only the balance are wrong or substandard. I suspect that many of us dwell on the ten percent much more than the ninety percent that is right. This tends to make us bitter and worried and ultimately leads us to physical problems such as stomach ulcers and stress. I challenge you to dwell on the positive. That is Christ's mandate for the Christian.

ON POSITIVE THINKING: God gives us great grace in our thinking if we dwell and meditate on Him and His will for our lives. If you do not have much faith in your ideas, claim the Lord's promise for leading those whose minds are stayed on Him. I am not saying that you would desire to force your opinions down the throats of other people but to have a positive input into their lives and into the functions of the Church Body is a special blessing.

ON WORRY: I believe that if you are worried, you might do three things that will give you victory over it. First, ask yourself, "What is the worst thing that could possibly happen in this situation." **GOD CAN CONTROL IT.** Second, you must learn to prepare mentally and spiritually to accept the situation if God allows something to challenge. **GOD IS IN CONTROL.** Finally, calmly proceed to improve the problem. **GOD GIVES VICTORY.**

ON VALUES: I honestly believe that this is one of the greatest secrets to true peace of mind. The higher your value system... the more Christ centered it is... the more successful you will be in life. Our values of what is important should develop a sort of private gold standard... a standard of what things are worth in terms of our everyday Christian life.

ON PEP TALKS: I suggest we all have a pep-talk each day. You say, Len, that sounds silly, superficial and childish! No! Quite the contrary. Our life is really made up of what we think. That is Biblical. We many times allow ourselves to get down and are less effective because we don't talk ourselves out of the wrong attitude, ideas or action. We are very encouraged at times by talking to others about our challenges in life but I would suggest that the Bible first encourages us to talk to ourself... then to God... then to others.

ON ENTHUSIASM: Enthusiasm comes as you have more confidence in yourself and in your God. Allow the negatives to pass through your fingers very quickly and dwell on the positive. Then act enthusiastically. Share that enthusiasm with someone. It is much like love in that it is useless unless it is communicated to someone. Enthusiasm also comes from those who are really interested in what they are doing or what they are saying. Small amounts of faith breeds small amounts of enthusiasm.

BE THANKFUL: Thank God that He is a victory giver... that He will give you courage... He will give you a right perspective... that He will take your worries upon Himself... that He will give you peace of mind rather than worry... that He will change your values, listen to your pep talks and will ultimately give your enthusiasm.

Brother Len Wertz

THE LESSON IN A "STORY"

Dear fellow pilgrims en route to our heavenly home in Christ Jesus! The following article is Part II in a series of three. I trust each

of you will study the contents collectively, and endeavor to glean from them the many lessons contained in this Bible story.

An effort has been made to set the narration in a place that would have been entirely conceivable for Christ to have ministered His healing touch to the characters involved. Though imaginative, I trust that each of you will allow the truth woven into the fabric of this story to touch your heart. Jesus is not a name to be "doctrinized" into obscurity. Rather, it is a glorious name where ordinary words fall short in ascribing honor and meaning.

The following is an attempt to capture the emotion of the moment of CLEANSING in one man's life. It is my prayer that the thrill of wholeness that must have electrified his spine that day, is felt by each of us. And that its tremors may give to each of us the courage to lift our sin numbed hands toward the one who DID die on Calvary! With just a spoken word our spiritual health can be just as dramatically restored. Come with me and feel the warm breezes of Galilee in your face. You may even feel the hand of the Teacher fall lightly on your shoulder.

Baruch's voice broke with the strain of emotion that had mounted during his arduous journey. His deformed hands stretched toward the teacher as if he was the last nail to grasp onto before all hope was gone.

"Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean!" (Matt. 8:2)

The absurdity of the request roused a chuckle from those in the front. They realized all too well what it was that he asked for, no leper had ever been cleansed before! Those nearest him shrank back in horror and hatred that he had dared to come among them without the mark on his lip, and with his head covered. Others leaned forward to see what would happen. Baruch wanted like never before to just run. Run from the crowd, run from his leprosy, run from his life. The pounding reached a crescendo in his ears, only to be calmed abruptly by the gentle touch of the teacher's hand. It was the first touch he had felt in years!

"I will; be thou clean!", said the teacher. (Matt. 8:3) Immediately his leprosy was gone!

Love sprang new in his heart as feeling blossomed in his now complete hands and feet. Never had he felt such adoration for someone in his entire life. This man, this teacher had given him everything by healing his leprosy. His feeling had returned, along with that, his joy. His homeward steps were light. He marveled at this sudden change of events. He walked even faster as he thought of how happy Jenni would be when he strode through the door to their home and held her close after all these years of separation. Lifting their child would be a new experience all together.

There was only one thing that he hadn't understood. Jesus had distinctly said, "See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." (Matt. 8:4)

Offer the gifts? Show himself to the priest? Certainly, anything you say Master, but tell no man? How could he begin to do that? First there was the fact that his body was markedly changed. He wasn't about to conceal that. Furthermore, what about his friends in the leper colony? You had better believe he was going to tell them, he wanted them to experience the same healing that he had!

I love that story! It is one of those stories that raises goose bumps on the back of your neck. It's a neat story but its lesson is far reaching. The healing that Baruch experienced is ours for the asking. We the "lepers" can still stretch our deformed hands out to the master and be healed, even today! Let's draw then from this beautiful story. Let's find the gems of truth concealed in this Bible story and apply them to our lives today!

Today, with modern medicine at the helm, we do not have leprosy per say. (Hansen's disease.) What we do have though is very similar. It's a disease called SIN! In epidemic proportions!

Leprosy comes from a root meaning — "to strike." Although in scripture, lepers have always been referred to as ceremonially unclean, rather than sinful, it seems well established that leprosy was deemed a "strike" from God, and those people unfortunate enough to contact it, generally were shunned and banished. The disgrace usually associated with this stigma in scripture, strongly suggests though, that it may serve as an illustration of sin.

With that in mind let's reapply the truth about Baruch and his experience with the Master.

First, ponder upon the thrust of the damage that was dealt Baruch. The rotting effect that it had on his body is a similar, if not the same blighting effect that sin has on the soul. Leprosy was something that no man chose for himself or his neighbor. Neither is sin. It's part of our nature. (Romans 5:18a)

It numbed the nervous system and various extremities dropped off in advanced cases. Just as Baruch could feel the gravel on the road he traveled, neither can the heart, numbed with sin, distinguish the paths that our spiritual man trods! (Ephesians 4:17-19, Proverbs 14:12)

Baruch may as well have been cut off from the land of the living. Even his family would not tolerate his close proximity. The sheer and utter separation in itself was torture. His only friends were those, numbed like himself, stumbling in the same way. Likewise, sin separates us from our church families as well as separates us

from GOD! A sinner's closest friends are those who share the same ungodly degeneration. Even though they may yearn for other fellowship, it cannot be granted because of the contagious characteristics of sin. (Ephesians 5:11) Created within the heart of each man is the desire to do good, referred to as conscience most often, but the desire alone is not enough. The desire must be bolstered and coupled with a touch from the Master's hand. (II Corinthians 5:17) Isn't that great? No more leprosy! (sin).

Analyzing the request yields the thought that Baruch was well acquainted with the Old Testament connotation of Leprosy. We see that Baruch asked Christ to cleanse him and not to heal or cure him. With respect to leprosy the Bible treats it as an emblem of sin in its aspect of pollution or defilement. Therefore in its removal it is always said to be cleansed, not cured or healed! Our spiritual man is likewise washed of his sin. (I Corinthians 6:9-11) Not to be confused with the illustration of the baptismal waters.

Baruch's muttered request was a combination of faith and doubt. Faith in that Christ had the power and ability, doubt in that would He be willing. "If thou wilt." Mark 1:40. The first thing Christ did was the last thing that anyone else would have done. Moved with compassion Christ touched Baruch! Leviticus 13:43-46. For a normal man to touch a leper meant forfeiture of social life and defilement for oneself. Faithfully, Christ touched the leper, not as man, but as God/Man, and as the saviour of man, Christ was not defiled. His touch instead imparted cleansing to Baruch. Putting forth the divine hand was not only proof of the Lamb's willingness to die to give healing, but attests to His complete power and capability to do so as God. The beauty here is found in John 6:35-40, where Christ promises that He will in no wise cast out any who come to Him. Luke 4:18-19 further develops the thought of Christ's ministry and work being directed at those who are hurting because of sin. and those who are captivated by the strangle hold of this dread disease upon their hearts.

To be continued
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KEEPING THE BODY PURE

I Corinthians 6:19-20, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

I Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Ezekiel 23:39-40, "For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house. And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments."

Within the perimeter of church history is found two theological premises. One of these states that man is all body in this life and the spirit is only for eternal existence. The other states that only the spirit or soul is saved for eternity and therefore the body has no part in an individual's salvation. Both of these extremes are declared to be false teaching within the pages of Holy Scripture.

The first teaching is prevalent in modern humanistic theology. Within this teaching is found such things as "missionary efforts" that do more than secular government and welfare agencies. Preachers that never mention the need of a born again experience but, instead, stress the need of a good moral life. And perhaps foremost, the "love yourself" lie that Satan has made extremely popular in our day.

While the first teaching is cause for concern, the second teaching is even more dangerous. Most of those who teach modern humanistic theology show their true colors by denying that the Bible is the Word of God and ridicule most of the truths therein. Quite to the contrary, most of those who teach that the body has nothing to do with our salvation claim to be Bible believing Christians, many who use only the King James Version. They teach that at the time the Holy Spirit enters us and we are born again a "spiritual circumcision" takes place and our soul and body are separated. Strangely enough, most of these still teach a need of keeping the body pure. But "since it has nothing to do with your salvation" there is no real need for it, according to these teachers. In addition to this false teaching, keeping the body pure, according to them, has nothing to do with outward appearance.

It has been said that if the heart is right all the rest will take care of itself. We would like to think that this is true. But if it is then it would appear as if many professing Christians have never had a heart changing experience! Many that wear the plain garb both use and grow tobacco. While this may have been excused in years gone by, recent medical information should tear away any lame excuse for a professing Christian to indulge in this disgusting habit or grow the product making it available for others. Not only is it harmful to those who use it but recent studies have shown that it is a danger to others who come into contact with the used smoke. Is it any worse to kill someone with a gun than it is to kill with a smoking habit? Do we speak against child abuse then abuse them by forcing them to inhale used smoke as well as giving them a bad example for later in life?

Alcoholic beverages both destroy the mind and body, according to medical information. Those who drink and drive are the greatest danger on the highway and cause a high percentage of the highway fatalities. We are glad that our Dunkard Brethren take a position of complete abstinence including at our Lovefeast. Do we take just as strong a stand against "eating ourselves to death?" Do we take the time to get proper exercise and proper rest? We are to glorify God in our body. We realize that it is easier for some than others to keep a slim figure. Our Brethren "Dutch eating habits" include many foods that are prone to put on weight and then keep it for most of us. But it is a shame if we have to have a heart attack or some other serious problem before we decide to take care of our bodies. We confess that it took a scare of chest pains and a diagnosis of high cholesterol before we started to watch what we ate.

God is not only concerned about what we put inside our bodies but what is on the outside, contrary to popular teaching. Are we "slaying our children" to the idols of modern fashion? Have we "sent for men to come from afar" to tell us how to dress? Many modern fashions come to us from foreign countries by individuals who openly mock Christian standards and religious morals. It is quite acceptable in most Christian circles to paint the eyes (and face) and to deck oneself with ornaments. Is to come into God's sanctuary thus made up (while claiming to be a child of God) profaning it? May we hold fast to our plain way of life. Each thing that we lay aside brings us closer to this style of the world that we believe God hates and may very well punish.

Keeping our bodies pure brings us good health many times, though it is not guaranteed. It is one hundred percent sure to bring glory to our God and acceptance in His sight. We are persuaded that without it we will never enter the gates of Heaven. May our desire be to bring glory to His name and to express our love to Him by keeping our body pure. This alone, will not bring eternal life. You must have a born again experience which will result in being cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. And according to I Peter 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..."

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OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Copper Kettle

J. H. Moore

When I was about seventeen years old, my parents moved onto a farm in Adams County, this State, located about fifteen miles from

where the main body of the Brethren lived. In course of time arrangements were made to have preaching at a schoolhouse in our neighborhood, every eight weeks. The appointments were usually filled by Bro. David Wolf, son of Eld. George Wolf, or Bro. Wm. Lirely. Both were good preachers, and usually drew large congregations.

In the fall, when the apples began to ripen, my parents, Virginia-like, concluded that we ought to make some apple butter, hence made inquiry for a copper kettle, but none was to be found, as the people in that part of the country knew nothing about making apple butter. Our meeting day came, — we all attended of course, — and Bro. David Wolf preached. After meeting, one of the neighbors told my father that there was a Pennsylvanian living among the hills, about ten miles south, who had a large copper kettle that might possibly be had if he would send for it.

Early on Monday morning I was started out with a team, in search of the copper kettle. The route was not only rough, but difficult to follow. Finally I drove up to the well-improved little farm that had been pointed out as the place where the Pennsylvanian lived. Walking into the neatly-kept yard, I met a pleasant-looking gentleman, and asked if his name was ----. He replied in the affirmative. I then told him where I lived, and what I had come for, assuring him we would take good care of the kettle, and pay him for the use of it. He said that he had a large copper kettle, but would neither lend nor hire it out, as such a vessel cost a good deal, and was very easily spoiled. He stated that his had been injured a time or two, and he had concluded not to let it go any more.

Feeling the disappointment keenly, I apologized as best I could for troubling him, at the same time telling him that while at meeting the day before, one of our neighbors had told my father of the kettle, and that was the way we came to know of it. He asked me where we attended meeting. I told him at the Bush schoolhouse, three miles east of Payson. "Who preached?" says he. I answered, "David Wolf." "To what church does he belong?" he eagerly inquired. "The Dunkard church," says I. "Is your father a member of the Dunkard church?" he asked. I told him he was. "All right," says he, "he can have the kettle, and is perfectly welcome to it. I used to know these fine people back in Pennsylvania, where I came from, and they were always honest, and would take good care of things." I was soon on my way home with the large copper kettle in the wagon, feeling wonderfully elated over the results of my trip.

On reaching home I told the whole story to my parents, and they felt not only a little proud of the good name the church had, but showed a decided appreciation for the way I had approached the Pennsylvanian and obtained the use of the kettle. The reader may rest assured that my parents did the best to preserve the good name

of the Brethren church, and the kettle was returned in fine condition, with a sample of the kind of apple butter we knew how to make.

It is encouraging to note what a good impression honesty and uprightness had made on the mind of the man, who had moved from Pennsylvania twenty years before. He had not forgotten the Brethren and their honesty. That is the kind of a religion that takes with thinking people. The borrowing of a copper kettle was a small affair, yet it brought to light the effects of honest living upon the part of others. That man had confidence in the very name "Dunkard." He thought that every one who belonged to the church was all right, and could be trusted. We trust he never had occasion to change his opinion.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1931

SOME LITTLE WORDS WITH BIG MEANINGS

J. F. Britton

The words BAD and SIN are very small words but are synonymous in character and abound in negarious meaning and unspeakable consequences. A disease germ is a little thing, but will inoculate the whole body with a deathly malady. Hence, a little sin, and a bad habit has often ended in a premature grave and a Christless eternity.

The words GOD and LAW are little words, but who can comprehend the immensity of their meaning and consequences? Three letters, G-O-D, spell, God, the Supreme and Omnipotent Creator of this vast universe, by the word of His power, who also is the origin and author of life, light and power, and who said, "Let there be light; and there was light," and He, who breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life; and "man became a living soul."

Yea, God, by virtue of His omnipotent genius and wisdom, has inaugurated the little word LAW, which rules and governs the sun, moon and stars, and functions through Nature, and the various realms of this world. Therefore, it stands to reason and is logical that the most profound attribute of God is His law.

Relative to Christ, we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Hence, the Word of God is active and animated with the executive functions of God. And, as the Word of God and the Law of God are correlative and inseparable, why should poor finite man in his depravity and limitations, assume to change the Word of God, which is the Law of God?

And is the Law of the Lord a plaything that man can bandy back and forth as we would a toy? This trifling with God's Law, and wresting and making it mean anything to suit the fantastical opinions of men, are depreciating and invalidating the faith of thousands of good people in the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

No human genius has ever brought forth any invention that has not been improved and made better, but the Law of the Lord has never been improved, because it is perfect, without flaw or defect, and, like its author, infallible. Hence, it is called the Law of righteousness. Therefore, He said, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom." (Heb. 1:8.) And so, the Law of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting, the unchangeable decrees, the same yesterday, today, and forever. "The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul."

No wonder when the people saw the manifestations of the curative and restorative powers of Christ they "Were beyond measure astonished, saying, "He hath done all things well: He maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak." (Mar. 7:37.) Yes, what God does through His ordained agencies is well done.

No wonder that the Apostle Paul cries out from the very depths of his soul, saying, "O the depth of riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God; how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out. For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." (Rom. 11:33-36.)

O God, breathe upon thy people and quicken their visions, so that they may see the beauties of holiness in thy Law. Amen.

NEWS ITEMS

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Lord has seen fit to call two new ministers in the Walnut Grove Congregation. Please pray for Bro. Paul Ness and Bro. Galen Shelly, that their ministry will be an asset to His kingdom.

Also, we now have a church address, and all correspondence may be sent to: Walnut Grove Dunkard Brethren Church, 4000 Kump Station Rd., Taneytown, MD 21787.

Thank you

Sister Dorothy Nell, Cor.

NOTICE

Now is the time for each Presiding Elder to inform the Editor of any additions, deletions or changes that need to be made in the information concerning your congregation in the February 1, 1992 issue. Please send this material to him by January 1, 1992. With the help of each one, this February 1st issue will be complete and accurate.

Thank you,
The Editor

THANK YOU

Thank you to each who remembered Sis. Dora Spurgeon with cards, letters and visits for her one hundredth birthday. May God bless each one for your part in making this a very special day for her.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Christ revealed God as a Father. In His first and last words, Christ calls Him "Father." As a Father, God thinks of us, loves us, works for us, cares for us, protects us, provides for us in the future. "Father" is the most endearing appellation in which He is made known unto us. "I should hve been an atheist," said Randolph, "had it not been for one recollection; and that was when my mother used to take my hand in hers, and cause me on my knees to say, 'Our Father which art in Heaven.' " "I never fear," said a little child, "when Father is with me."

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

The supplies of a missionary among the Indians were reduced, for three persons, to one small piece of meat and three potatoes. It was winter. They laid their case before God in prayer, and claimed His promise, that the trusting shall be fed. The last morsel they had was spread on the table, when an Indian came in with a quarter of venison, saying, "I come to feed you." When the Indian heard of their extremity and prayer, he said, "Now I know why, when I killed my deer, seven miles away, something said to me, "Go quickly, and carry a piece to the missionary!"

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 24

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE LAMB

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the values rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and He is mild;
He became a little child.
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name.

Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

- William Blake

THE COST OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season is upon us. It usually is pictured as a time of peace, sociability and quietness. It is a time devoted to gifts and giving; especially God's Gift of Love. As unlikely as it seems when thinking of this season, there is a cost associated with it. There is a price connected with the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem.

The first cost of Christmas is financial. This is evident by the frantic advertising of merchandisers, trying to convince the public to buy many of their products as Christmas gifts. Many retailers depend upon this season to provide enough sales to make their business year a financial success. There is much spending at this time of year, so presents can be exchanged and the children can receive their hearts' desires. Especially in the United States there is a great financial cost associated with Christmas. Many families go into deep debt in order to buy the toys and gadgets that they so earnestly long for. Some barely get out of debt from the previous Christmas so they can repeat the process the next year.

This is not the way God intended for this season to be celebrated. It is no honor to Christ or God or the Church, when this becomes the main emphasis of the season. When the financial cost of the holiday becomes the chief concern of those supposedly celebrating it, then the true reason for the season has departed from that heart and mind. The admonition is that Christians should be frugal with their financial resources so they will have to give to those who are actually in need. That is perhaps nearer to the Christmas spirit than the present giving and receiving of gifts amongst those who seek more to impress one another than to offer help to those in need.

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Not all the cost of Christmas is financial. There was a price for Mary to pay. The angel announced to her that she was to be the earthly mother of the Son of God. At the time she was engaged to Joseph. If an angel had not also informed Joseph of the special child Mary was carrying, he could have made a public example out of her, if he had wished. Even though Joseph knew the source of the child within her, there still could have been malicious talk concerning her pregnancy. At the end of the pregnancy, when she was most uncomfortable, she had to endure the journey to the City of David. Once there, no inn could be found where she might deliver the soon-to-be-born child. In a stable, with the animals providing the warmth, she brought forth her first-born.

The shepherds were startled by the announcement of the angels. After the angels had delivered their message of joy, the shepherds desired to go and see the One, they had spoken of. They were willing to pay the price of inconvenience. They left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. It may not have been the easiest thing to do at that hour but they were intent on seeing this object of the angels announcement. They were the first to know and to go.

Much later the Wise Men of the East saw the star and set out to find the promised Babe. They traveled through many miles of desert. The climate was not always the most comfortable; often being hot in the day and cold at night. They finally arrived in Jerusalem, where they consulted with King Herod, who was ignorant of the great event that had occurred in nearby Bethlehem. They corrected their course to make their way to the house where Jesus now lived with Mary and Joseph. There they presented the rich presents that they had carried with them over the many miles of inhospitable desert. They paid their price in traveling to present their gifts.

Because Herod was jealous of this Babe who was prophesied to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, he wanted to eliminate Him. Since the Wise Men did not return to Jerusalem to tell him where Jesus was to be found, Herod decided to have all the children of two years and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem put to death. This was a terrible price that had to be paid by the innocent. Babies were ripped from mothers' arms to be massacred, because one man was unable to yield to God. Throughout history there have been many who have innocently suffered because the rulers of the world could not accept the King greater than themselves.

The price that Bethlehem cost God is usually spoken of during the Easter season. If the Son of God had not been born at Bethlehem to the Virgin, there would have been no Perfect Lamb of God to die the substitutionary death on Calvary. That sacrifice had to be a perfect One; one untainted by human sin. Bethlehem was the scene of the birth of that perfect One; it speaks of a price that God had to pay.

What is your cost this Christmas? Will it only be the financial price of gifts and gadgets? Or will you be willing to pay the price of your life, time, talents and service?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Christmas, A POSITIVE Message from God.

The world is filled with negative messages today. Even as we are celebrating this beautiful season, chaos reigns in nations and in the lives of people who are seeking peace outside the Kingdom of God. But the message from God is clear: "FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER; AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR, THE MIGHTLY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE." (Isa. 9:6)

Only a short time from now, another Christmas will be just a memory. A few moments more to linger in the colorful radiance of the love and fellowship of the season and a few more moments to blend our hearts and voices in Christmas melodies... a few moments more to enjoy the happiness that comes to our united family circles at this time of year. On this Day of Days, we leave the grasp of the world and reach back into time to a lonely manger where our Saviour was born.

My concern is that, too often, when the glow and luster of the season is gone, the message is also dimmed or possibly forgotten.

Christmas is too magnificent to be confined to one solitary and fleeting day. The Christ of Christmas is a gift that brings perpetual happiness both here and in the hereafter. If you have never permitted the star of faith to guide you to Bethlehem, I encourage you to join with the lowly shepherds and follow them to the Christ child and immortalize this Christmas by receiving Him into the Inn of your heart.

Seven hundred years before the angels aroused these drowsy shepherds, Isaiah of the Old Testament predicted His birth and gave Him the dynamic titles contained in the text of this article. He is identified by five glorious names.

Isaiah called this Christ child WONDERFUL. This title in the original is THE MIRACLE. We need to stop this season and breath a word of thankful prayer that He is a miracle and beyond human reason and understanding. He is the mystery of God becoming incarnate as the Son of Man. Is it any wonder that unbelieving man cries out, "How can these things be?" The religion of Jesus is based on a miracle. He is God's way. We desire to kneel before this Wonder of the Ages and offer Him the pure gold gift of faith, the fragrant frankincense of hope and the myrrh of love.

This Babe in the manger was to become the super solution to the universal problem of sin. He was born to save His people from their sins. There is no sin too great, no offense too vile, no wrong too oppressive to be removed completely for all time by His priceless birth and death on the cross.

He was called, COUNSELOR. This past year may have been disappointing in some ways. You may have gone on with much confidence in your money, your brain power or social power... but these only lead to bewilderment. You can find a Counselor in Bethlehem. He is concerned foremost with your soul that lives on after the trinkets of life crumble into dust. He is faithful and makes life worth living. Believe in Him... He will give you rest.

The third name of this wonder Child is THE MIGHTY GOD. Here we have the real, essential Christ of Christmas... the Christ who from the lowly beginning at Bethlehem unto the bitter, heartbreaking end at Calvary, proved to be and was declared to be GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH. GOD IS WITH US. He is a part of our home, our stern realities of every day life... everywhere. He is an unfailing light to guide us and uphold us and save us for evermore.

A fourth name for this infant is THE EVERLASTING FATHER. Let's linger for a moment on these names of magestic meaning. Throughout man's long existence, he has strained for something firm and enduring, but his greatest achievements rise today and fade tomorrow. They are here one day and gone the next. But now with the Pillar of the Ages... the changless Christ... we have security and stability and a peace treaty between heaven and earth has been signed and sealed by His blood.

Jesus is the PRINCE OF PEACE. There may be some of you who are reading this that are still at war with God, still allied with the forces of sin. Or, you may hve fallen back into complacency in 1991 and are not walking close to God in the safety of His shadow. Let me urge you to come and accept peace for the soul, not as the world gives, but the peace that Christ offers to all. You will never know the joy of life until this peace is pronounced upon your sin-freed soul. Only this step will make Christmas be to you what it should be... the birthday of Christ, the Prince of Peace, not only in Bethlehem... but also in your soul.

Accept this positive message from God. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Brother Len Wertz

THE LESSON IN A "STORY"

Dear fellow pilgrims en route to our heavenly home in Christ Jesus! The following article is Part III, the conclusion of this series. I

trust each of you will study the contents collectively, and endeavor to glean from them the many lessons contained in this Bible story.

An effort has been made to set the narration in a place that would have been entirely conceivable for Christ to have ministered His healing touch to the characters involved. Though imaginative, I know that each of you will allow the truth woven into the fabric of this story to touch your heart. Jesus is not a name to be "doctrinized" into obscurity. Rather, it is a glorious name where ordinary words fall short in ascribing honor and praise.

The following is an attempt to capture the emotion of the moment of CLEANSING in one man's life. It is my prayer that the thrill of wholeness, that must have electrified his spine that day, is felt by each of us. And that its tremors may give to each of us the courage to lift our sin numbed hands toward the one who DID die on Calvary! With just a spoken word our spiritual health can be just as dramatically restored. Come with me and feel the warm breezes of Galilee in your face. You may even feel the hand of the Teacher fall lightly on your shoulder.

Woven with intricate simplicity into the command not to tell anyone, but to wash; was the golden strand of conversion. The power of it, as Jesus knew it, as well as the impact that he knew it could have on those witnessing the changed life. Let's investigate that.

As I had previously hinted, there had never been another leper healed until the time of the teacher/healer. For nearly 1500 years! Two things just popped into your mind. First Miriam (Numbers 12), then Naaman (II Kings 5, Luke 4:27). Great, but they don't count! Here's why. Miriam would have been before the Law! Naaman was a gentile (Syrian), thus exempt from the requirement of the law!

Asking Baruch to appear before the very priests who had previously declared him unclean, would have forced the priests to have come to a couple of decisions they were currently avoiding. First, was he truly healed? They could not deny his obvious physical change. If yes, then how was he healed, or better, who healed him? The last part of verse 4 distinctly says, "For a testimony unto them." Like Psalms 66:16, "Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul."

Here was a prophet doing mighty signs in their sight, and crediting it to the Elohim of Abraham. (Deut. 13:1-3). Since he passed the requirements of the law, why were the priests not helping Him to minister instead of impeding His every move.

Under the law lepers were declared unclean and no medical regimen was prescribed for their care or cleansing. This particular dimension of Christ's ministry on earth takes on peculiar meaning

and added validity, proving that Christ was the Divine Physician. Someone to whom the great/learned scholars of the day should have been listening to, learning from and assisting in His ministry instead of plotting to kill Him with each new cleansing.

Baruch's appearance at the altar would have neatly attested to the fact that God was even now ministering to the needs of his sin sick people. Obedience would have equipped him with proper credentials to take up his previous social life. Even now a sin blighted soul that finds cleansing in Christ is an inspiration as well as an evidence that God's spirit still calls and the door of grace is still open to those willing to seek after righteousness. This breaks down the barrier of separation and allows a person to take up their "church" life again.

The saddening part of this cronicle of Baruch also leaves some lessons for the discerning mind. (Mark 1:45) Unfortunately Baruch told all that he knew without regard to its impact on those around him, making it impossible for Christ to minister in the towns. This unintended disobedience was certainly a contributing factor to the brevity of Christ's ministry on earth. Even now we need to be cautious that we temper zealotusness with prudence so as not to damage the reputation of God by simply overstating our personal experiences. Proper display of the power of God in our lives can and should have a positive affect on those around us.

Simply stated we first prove our obedience to God by doing His bidding. Secondly we through our obedience become witnesses to the right people!

Christ's plan in this instance was to deal with the nation from the top downward to the common people. His priests should have recognized Him through Baruch's testimony. Likewise, a saved person, properly presenting his "testimony" to those in authority over him can change great things. For example: A stagnant church could be revived by one faithful convert who submits the evidence directly to the "puppet" leadership instead of blowing the trumpet himself. A wife may have an eternal impact on her husband by giving proper testimony to the ever present healing touch of the Master's hand. (I Peter 3:1-2) This as well shifts the responsibility of acceptance from the shoulders of the "leper" to the shoulders of the "Priests". The list goes on as do the challenges this lesson carries with it. God is still as willing to reach out and touch us today in our sin deformed state as He was willing to touch Baruch. There is a very large world around us filled with hurting people who need our Master's touch. Let us introduce them to the God/Man whose wounded hand can bring peace to troubled hearts.

Brother Galen Scott Shelly
485 California Rd.
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THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

I Timothy 6:10, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

We recently heard it said that this verse should read, "The love of money is the root of many evils:" rather than "all evil." This caused us to do some thinking since this thought has also entered our mind. We hope the Holy Spirit will lead our thinking as we share some thoughts on this.

First of all we are coming into a season when many will be busy buying expensive gifts to give to those they love. Some of these will spend money they do not have by the use of credit cards or other borrowing opportunities. It is a time when the name of Christ is often heard but few seem to truly honor Him.

Although television and radio preachers tell their listeners that God desires for them to gain riches, this is not the message found in scripture. For the few select verses used by "prosperity preachers" there are literally hundreds that can be found that teach the danger of wealth. Jesus Christ or His disciples never had much of this world's goods. Our Lord taught that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. (We believe this is literal rather than referring to a city gate.) He also instructed a rich young ruler to sell all he had and give it to the poor. In addition to this He instructed us in Matthew 6:19-20, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

We believe the display of wealth was the major reason Paul instructed Timothy in I Timothy 2:9, "In like manner also, (this includes men), that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, (hair with gold and silver adorning it), or gold, or pearls, or costly array;" Although modest apparel denotes clothing that covers the body, we believe it means more than this. We are not to follow the costly styles of the world.

To return to our original thought, is money actually the root of all evil? We believe it is important that the scriptures do not say, "The root of all evil is the love of money." To say that the LOVE of money, not money itself, is the root of all evil does not completely solve the problem. We can think of many evils that do not seem to be related to money at all. Yet we believe that the scriptures are without error. Could it be that we have misinterpreted this verse? We would like to

think about what is the root of all evil? We believe that Paul is saying that the love of money is what is defined as the root of all evil, rather than the love of money, itself, being the root of all evil. We hope we are not being confusing.

To help us let us look at some scriptures we feel are related. In Deuteronomy 29 we find that God is instructing His people Israel that He is to be their only God and that they are not to fall into the errors of Egypt. In verse 18 He tells them to avoid the abominations and idols of Egypt "Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you A ROOT that beareth gall and worm-wood;" In Job 5:3 we read, "I have seen the foolish TAKING ROOT:... "And in Isaiah 5:24 we read, "Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so THEIR ROOT shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel."

We see the "root of all evil" as being our sinful human nature along with all spiritual problems this brings. Therefore, Paul is correct in stating that "The love of money is the root of all evil." This root of all evil is what causes individuals to gamble to gain riches. With more and more people becoming millionaires through the state lotteries the temptation to gamble will increase. It may be possible that in future years Christians will be persecuted because of their refusal to contribute to this type of gambling process. Many Christians today are willing to participate in "harmless gambling" where no money is involved. We believe this is merely a snare of Satan to lead individuals into greater sin.

While it is important that we do not allow riches to contaminate our lives, we believe it is more important that we spend our money wisely. There is a trend to "christianize" worldly amusements and novelties. Christian television, movies, and now VCRs (videotapes used on television) are widely accepted. Many spend their money for the same things as the world but give it a "christian" title. It is no longer popular to be separate from the world.

Isaiah prophesied a good root that is the only cure for the root of all evil. (Isaiah 11:1-10) In Romans 15:12 Paul affirms that this is the Lord Jesus Christ. Then in Revelation 22:16 Jesus Christ Himself tells us that He is this root. He conquered all evil when He shed His precious blood on Calvary's cross. Through this we can have life eternal. He died for us, should we not desire to live for Him?

Brother James M. Hite
816 Birch Street
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1931

"LOVE NOT THE WORLD"

Grant Mahan

We read the above words in the First Epistle of John, and immediately after them he adds, "neither the things that are in the world." One cannot but wonder what is meant by such an injunction, for after creation all were pronounced good. It was assigned to man as his home for a limited time, and men have been and many more could be, happy while living here.

Yet, "the world" is evil, not of itself, but because it was made so by man. Man was given free will, and has not willed to live in harmony with the will of God. That was not good, was evil; it brought "death into the world, and all our woe." There are many good things, many beautiful things, in the world and around the world. Some men have seen them, while most men have not had the eyes that are needed to see these good and beautiful objects.

Man misses so much by not living according to the Spirit; the best things, the most enduring things, the only lasting things are spiritually discerned; and so very many have eyes, and see not the things which are most worth seeing. And the fault is their own: the things have been placed here for us to see — and we just will not deny ourselves the things that destroy our vision for them; we know to do good, and do it not.

It seems to me that we do not get from the words and meaning that we are supposed to get. The words of the Apostle Paul will help us to get the true meaning. In Colossians he says: "Set your affection on things above, and not on things on the earth." Our love for the things of the earth and for things of heaven differs in kind and in degree. There is nothing wrong in loving some of the things of the earth: the wrong, the sin, comes in when we bestow upon them the love which is due only to God, when we make them our gods and sacrifice other and more precious things for them.

In Philippians Paul wrote of some "whose mind is set on earthly things." That is the greatest hindrance in the world to Christian living, having the mind set on earthly things. Unless the earthly things are subordinated to the heavenly, there can be no real spiritual life: it is impossible to serve the flesh and the spirit, mammon and God. We have been told this truth so many times and in so many places in the New Testament, and yet we go along serving the flesh and trying to make ourselves believe that it will answer for Christian service. In thinking that we make one of the greatest mistakes that man can make while living here.

When we see that we are making a mistake in our living or in any other way, right then is the best time to change and get right. But we usually put much a change off until a more convenient time, and then let the cares and pleasures of life make us forget all about it. The beginning of a new year has been considered a suitable time to make a start for better things.

We are at the beginning of a new year, so why not make the change to better things now? Why wait? We shall grow better only by giving up our will and following the Lord's will. It will not always be easy, it will not be possible in our own strength; but we can depend on having the best of help if we will but put forth earnest and repeated efforts. There is nothing better that we could resolve to do, and do just this at this time; there is nothing else anything like as good as this that we can do. It means everything worth while for us.

Choosing the better way, our road will grow better and better unto the perfect day, not choosing it means that our road will grow darker and darker until the end. The old, old choice is put before us; we must choose this day, every day, whom we will serve. We do not need more teaching, but we do need to think more soberly and to choose more wisely than we have been in the habit of doing; for we have been too nearly indifferent to the most important thing in the world. We call it a mistake, but it is really a sin, a sin that separates us from God here and now, and "over there" the separation will be endless.

The world is so close to us; but the Spirit is closer if we make our bodies fit places for His dwelling place. The world is beautiful; but He is more beautiful. The world is our home; but He will provide one infinitely better than the world. And that home will not be for a few short years; it is eternal in the heavens, "Love not the world."

OUR DUTIES TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Matthew 22:21, "... Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Romans 13:1, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

I Peter 2:13, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake:..."

Hebrews 11:13, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

I Peter 2:11, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims,..."

Hebrews 13:14, "For here have we no continuing city, but seek one to come."

I will not argue with anyone who says that it is a good thing to be a good citizen. A good citizen should do all that is expected of him, and more. He should behave in an exemplary manner in all things. He should obey all laws and keep all vows he has made. The world would be a better place if all citizens would behave in this way.

Many Christians today feel it is necessary to be a good citizen in all ways, including political activity and voting. They firmly believe that in order to be a good Christian, they must be a good citizen likewise. I talk to people like this every day. They are concerned about the world: they want their children to live in a better place than they did. Anyhow, what is wrong with having a concern for our world and wanting it to be better?

After examining the life of Jesus and the disciples, the lives of the patriarchs, and making a thorough study of God's Word, we begin to see a different truth emerge. Our citizenship as Christians is not in this world and our lives are not concerned with the things of this world. Our citizenship is in heaven. We have no certain dwelling-place. We have no continuing city. But we KNOW, as the scriptures says, that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven. (II Cor. 5:1-2) If indeed we have this hope and desire, can we risk involving ourselves in activities which do not promote and advance the cause of Jesus Christ our saviour, other than the pursuit of our daily needs? Is there a groaning within us to leave this vile world and be at home for eternity with our Lord?

I was born in England in 1953 of American parents. For sixteen years I was a citizen of two countries, but on my sixteenth birthday I had to choose one or the other. I had, many years before, left England. I had become an American. The choice was a logical one. In 1972 I was faced with another decision. I chose Christ, and in doing so, changed my citizenship again. I elected to leave this vile world and begin my journey heavenward.

But what about the world? How do we, as Christians, benefit the world? Again, looking at the life of Jesus, the scripture tells us that He went about doing good. He constantly preached the Kingdom of God. We can do no less. Reading at the end of the book of Matthew, we find we are commanded to do so.

Jesus paid His taxes and fulfilled His economic obligations. We do not believe that He got involved with governmental things in any way. His home was not here below, but in heaven. He taught His disciples that in order to follow Him certain things had to be left behind. First on the list, after the life of sin was abandoned, were the cares and riches of this life. They would weigh the disciple down. The concern of the disciple of our Lord would be in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Do not deeply entrench yourself in living here below. Keep your hope in Him and His return alive within you. There is nothing in this world or anywhere else that compares with being redeemed and living the life of the redeemed. Wise men still seek Him and fools still mock Him. Our example to the world should be a glowing and a shining light, just as Moses' face glowed when he came down the mountain after talking with God. We should not dirty our hands with the base nature of this world which will pass away. Stay out of the courtrooms. Pay your bills, and fulfill your obligations. Do not get heavily involved in buying and selling. These things will soon pass away. We can only preserve these mortal bodies so long. But if we nourish our souls with the bread of God we will live forever.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

MARRIAGE

WELCH - BARBERA

Sister Lessie (Likens) Welch and Nunzio Barbera were united in marriage Sunday, November 3, 1991 at the Sunny Side Church of the Brethren, by Elder Eugene Kauffman. They will reside at 300 Grand Ave., Keyser, West Virginia 26726.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

Notice for teachers of Primary Sunday School Classes: The Bible Study Board has lesson leaflets that consist of a Bible lesson and a picture to color for younger students. Order from: Bro. Fred Pifer, 1734 240th Street, Adel, Iowa 50003.

To avoid confusion among our members, especially among our

youth who are memorizing large amounts of Scripture, we recommend that the King James version of the Bible be used by our Sunday School teachers in teaching their respective classes.

Bible Study Board

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Our August revival is now history. I believe it has been an uplifting spiritual experience for the Swallow Falls church and also the goodly number of friends and neighbors who enjoyed Bro. Paul Hartz's messages with us. He did not shun to declare the Gospel while in our midst. While no additions were added to the church at this time one new family has been added to our regular attendance which we appreciate very much.

On August 25 we enjoyed a spiritual Love Feast service with twenty-two surrounding the Lord's table. Bro. Hartz officiated. Our Elder Bro. Virgil Leatherman and wife were also with us. We want to thank our visitors for coming. It meant a lot to have you with us. Come again, also pray for our small number in Western Maryland. May the Lord richly bless us all, and guide us in the way of truth in all things.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

THANK YOU

We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our many friends and loved ones for providing such a wonderful Golden Wedding Anniversary Occasion.

Most of all we thank our Heavenly Father for allowing us 50 years of happy married life together.

Special thanks to our son, Gale, our daughter-in-law, Gloria and their family for their love and thoughtfulness.

Special thanks to our beloved family (46 in all) for the beautiful and bounteous Thanksgiving Dinner enjoyed by all and in honor of our Anniversary.

Special thanks to our many, many friends and your Brethren and Sisters for your expressions of Congratulations, flowers and gifts.

May God Bless You All!

Brother Floyd and Sister Olive Haldeman

NOTICE

I am an Activities Assistant at Manor Care Nursing Home in Canton, Ohio. I have written this note for Paul R. Myers, a resident here for five and one-half years.

Due to a stroke, he is unable to answer his correspondence. He takes this means to thank all his friends and acquaintances for their heart-warming cards and letters. He is sorry he can no longer return a personal reply but will appreciate hearing from his friends whenever it is convenient for them to write.

He thanks everyone who has remembered him in any way and wishes a joyous holiday season to everyone!

In Christian love,
Lisa Barton per Paul Myers

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts and especially your prayers during my recent hospital stay and since my return home. Thanks, too, for the many birthday cards and gifts we received. All were deeply appreciated. May God richly bless each one, is our prayer.

Bro. and Sis. Glen Stauffer and family

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1992

January 5 - Adonija Desires to be King - I Kings 1:1-14.

1. Who was Adonija?
2. Who did King David want to succeed him?

January 12 - Solomon Anointed King - I Kings 1:15-53.

1. Who anointed Solomon to be king?
2. What was Adonija's response to Solomon's coronation?

January 19 - David's Death - I Kings 2:1-11.

1. What was David's charge to Solomon?
2. How long was David's reign?

January 26 - Solomon Establishes the Kingdom - I Kings 2:12-26.

1. Why did Adonija desire Abishag?
2. Why did this request incur Solomon's wrath?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1992

January 5 - Our Christian Calling - Matt. 22:1-14, I Cor. 1:23, 31, Eph. 1:17-23.

1. What is our true life purpose?
2. How are you carrying out that purpose?

January 12 - Our Profession - Ps. 78:32-39, Matt. 7:18-23, Titus 1:13-16.

1. What is our profession?
2. Who is our Employer?

January 19 - Ambassadors - Pro. 13:14-17, II Cor. 5:17-21, Eph. 6:10-24.

1. What is an ambassador?
2. How are you representing the Lord?

January 26 - Chosen Instruments - Jn. 15:14-17, I Cor. 1:27, Heb. 3:12-14.

1. What is the role of an instrument?
2. Whose instrument are you?

